

For Immediate Release

Municipality of Brockton's Updated Response to COVID-19

Brockton, ON, April 22, 2021 - The Municipality of Brockton's original State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic remains in effect. **The Province of Ontario [extended both the Stay-at-Home Order and Declaration of Emergency until at least May 20, 2021](#)**. The Stay-at-Home order currently in effect requires everyone to remain at home except for specified purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise, or for work that cannot be done remotely. **The Province-wide Emergency Brake Shutdown also remains in effect until at least May 1, 2021**. The province-wide emergency brake puts in place key public health safety measures to help to stop the rapid transmission of COVID-19. Visit the [Provincial Website](#) to learn more about the restrictions in effect.

The Municipality of Brockton continues to prioritize the health and well-being of residents and businesses by following advice from the Grey Bruce Health Unit and Provincial Government. In response to the recent Provincial announcements, the following measures have been taken:

Parks and Recreation Department Update

Under the Stay-at-Home Order, all outdoor recreational amenities, including sports fields, basketball and tennis courts, picnic areas, park shelters and facilities are also closed until further notice. Playground structures and greenspaces within parks and trails remain open for walkthrough access but individuals must maintain a minimum of 2 metres or 6 feet physical distance from others. The Province of Ontario amended their original Stay-at-Home Order to allow playgrounds and play structures to remain open. Physical distancing from anyone outside your immediate household at playgrounds is strongly encouraged.

The Recreation Office at the Walkerton Community Centre remains closed to the public until further notice, with the exception of drop-offs for well water samples. Well-water samples can be dropped off at the Walkerton Community Centre between the hours of 8:30-1:40 p.m. Monday to Friday. Recreation Department inquiries can still be made by telephone 519-881-0625 or [email](#).

All facility rentals, recreational and leisure programs, including private bookings have been postponed until further notice. The Elmwood Community Centre, Cargill and District Community Centre and Bradley School House Community Centre are closed to the public until further notice.

The following facilities remain open:

- Playground structures at all parks (Physical distancing must be maintained)
- Greenspaces and trails for walkthrough access (Physical distancing must be maintained)
- Brant and Walkerton/Hanover Landfill (Physical distancing must be maintained)
- Brockton Child Care Centre

Please view our [April 1, 2021 Information Bulletin](#) and/or [COVID-19 Updates webpage](#) for measures occurring in our remaining Municipal Departments that currently remain unchanged.

Recommendations

To stay safe and reduce transmission of COVID-19 follow these basics:

- Wash your hands frequently
 - Watch your distance (ideally 2 m)
 - Wear your face covering correctly
 - Avoid Crowds
 - Arrange for outdoor activities instead of indoors whenever possible
- (Note:** Under the new Stay-at-Home Order, outdoor events/gatherings are now prohibited unless all parties are from the same household or one other person from outside that household who lives alone or is a caregiver for any member of the household)

Residents must also limit close contact to only those individuals in their household.

Support Local Business Through Curbside Pickups

Brockton is a resilient and caring community who supports each other no matter the circumstances. We encourage residents to show our local businesses your support by participating in curbside pickup, ordering products online, or by phone! Check out your favourite businesses' social media or websites to see what services they may be offering during the remainder of the Stay-at-Home Order, or view a list of businesses on the [Walkerton BIA's website](#). Remember that we are all In It Together and will get through these challenges with perseverance and patience!

Enforcement of Stay-at-Home Order

The extended Stay-at-Home Order introduced additional enforcement protocols for the Ontario Provincial Police. The O.P.P. request that Ontarians voluntarily comply with the new emergency orders in order to limit transmission of the COVID-19 virus. O.P.P. officers will enforce the Stay-at-Home Order, under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, and the *Reopening Ontario Act* by focusing on non-compliance in businesses and restaurants, complaints from the public and unlawful public gatherings. Consistent with the new emergency orders, O.P.P. officers will not arbitrarily stop an individual or a vehicle, or enter a dwelling for the singular purpose of checking compliance with the order. Individuals are not expected to provide proof of essential work. Officers who believe an individual may be participating in a gathering that is prohibited may require the individual to provide information to determine whether or not they are in compliance.

Further Information

The Municipality of Brockton will continue to obtain information and updates from the County of Bruce, The Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Province of Ontario and other health agencies and will provide new information to residents when available. The Municipality of Brockton will continue to take all steps necessary to maintain essential services for our residents and local businesses. Please visit Brockton.ca/COVID19 for updated information for residents and Brockton.ca/BusinessRecovery for updated information about businesses, or call the Municipal Office at 519-881-2223.