



MEDIA RELEASE

March 16, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 & Continuation of Service

Petawawa, ON – In response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, members of the Town of Petawawa Emergency Control Group have assembled and will continually monitor the situation to respond effectively to this evolving situation. Updates will be provided on our municipal website (petawawa.ca) as they become available.

The Town of Petawawa will continue to maintain essential services as we monitor the situation with guidance from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit and the Ontario and Canadian health authorities. Essential services such as curbside garbage and recycling pick-up, routine road maintenance and landfill operations are not impacted at this time. The Municipal Office will remain open; however, we are encouraging our residents to consider taking appropriate measures to suppress the spread of COVID-19 by making property tax payments online or via cheque, utilizing the afterhours drop box. We strongly discourage transactions using cash at this time. Staff are available by telephone and email to provide assistance.

In efforts to decrease transmission we are recommending residents to practice social distancing. Social distancing involves taking steps to limit the number of people you come into close contact with. This will help to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Social distancing includes, but is not limited to:

- Avoiding non-essential trips in the community.
- Avoid visiting Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Supportive Housing, Hospices and other congregate care settings unless the visit is absolutely essential.
- If possible, limit or consider cancelling group gatherings.
- If you have meetings planned, consider doing them virtually instead of in person.
- Whenever possible, spend time outside and in settings where people can maintain a 1-2 metre (3-6 feet) distance from each other.

We appreciate your patience and understanding through this period of time.

As part of precautionary measures, the Petawawa Civic Centre will be closed to the public effective March 16th for three weeks or until further notice. Recreational programs and events within the Civic Centre have been cancelled or postponed. Questions regarding these closures can be directed to the Community Services Department by phone at 613-687-5678 extension 2101 or by email at bookings@petawawa.ca.

The Petawawa Public Library will also be closed until further notice. All programs or Rotary Room bookings have been cancelled and all loans will be extended until the Library officially re-opens.

Please note, these guidelines are not meant to say “stay in your home”, we encourage residents to go outside to take a walk, go to the park, or walk your dog. The Scentral Bark Off-Leash Dog Park remains open along with all community playgrounds and trails. We are simply recommending that while outside of your home that you make sure to avoid crowds and maintain a distance of 1-2 metres from those around you. While you may not feel sick, and while we know these measures are an inconvenience, please be mindful of the members of our community who are more vulnerable to COVID-19 than others.

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