

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2020



Information Bulletin No. 5: COVID-19

Wasaga Beach – The following is a statement from Mayor Nina Bifulchi.

“I recognize that the COVID-19 virus is a serious matter. Every day we see news reports with anchors and politicians, speaking with solemn voices that instill fear and uncertainty in people.

But I believe it is imperative that we remain strong and resilient as Wasaga Beach residents and Canadians. We must not forget the importance of remaining positive.

Rather than instilling fear in you, I am choosing to remind you of your inner strength. Use common sense and be the change that is required right now. We must all step up and be diligent.

If you are returning from out-of-province, respect the rules and self-isolate for 14 days. That means you do not leave your house.

If it is determined that you have COVID-19, or have been in contact with someone who has, stay home and follow provincial health directives.

And if you need items call on family, friends or home delivery. Don't be the weak link in beating this.

No matter what the challenge, it is important that we remain kind to one another.

As we navigate this pandemic, we must keep in mind the many frontline service people who are putting themselves at risk for us.

I thank all of our emergency service personnel for everything you are doing.

Thank you to those transporting supplies to where we need them.

And thank you to staff in pharmacies and grocery stores for ensuring stocked shelves and access to necessities.

Throughout all that we are enduring, we must show all our frontline workers our greatest respect.

It is also key that we observe the measures our health experts have put in place for our safety.

At the Town of Wasaga Beach, we are working on your behalf to provide services and ensure that town business continues.

Your council and our staff remain strong and committed as we move through this period.

We want to ensure that development and businesses are ready to bounce back.

On behalf of council, I thank all our staff for their efforts and for recognizing that as a government organization, tasked with delivering municipal services, we have an important role to play during these challenging times.

To keep our staff working and at minimum risk, we have put the following measures in place:

- 1) Closed all town buildings to the public, reducing the risk of the COVID-19 virus.
- 2) Self-assessment requirements for all staff prior to beginning work.
- 3) Staff returning from out-of-country vacation must self-isolate for 14 days before returning to work.
- 4) Cleaning supplies provided for workstations and hand washing products available.
- 5) Social distancing of 2 metres/6 feet as per the recommendation of the experts.
- 6) Shifts offered, where possible, to departments to eliminate the number of people in an area at the same time and to avoid unnecessary interaction.

We also recognize that there may be special circumstances for some staff and have provided the opportunity for them to be off if required.

Meetings of council are continuing to ensure continuity of town business. We are exploring the options of meeting remotely as provided by the province.

As the federal and provincial government are providing updates almost daily, council will need to address matters and conduct meetings.

There will be recommendations forthcoming at a special council meeting later this week that will deal with public participation and meeting structure during this time.

Please watch our meetings online [here](#).

The public can still comment on council business by sending their thoughts to us through phone or e-mail. You will find our contact information [here](#).

We recognize that online viewing is not the same as attending a meeting in person and as soon as the health professionals indicate that gatherings are appropriate we will encourage people to join us in the council chamber.

I have heard several concerns from people about certain businesses allowed to remain open at this time. This decision is one that falls to the health authority, and we must abide by their expert knowledge. One thing I encourage everyone to do is find ways to support our local business community. If you can order a service online, access take-out, buy a gift card – please consider doing so as a way to help.

If direction comes from higher levels of government, enforcing only essential services, I know we will all adhere to the directive. If we do reach that point, the municipality will then declare an emergency in Wasaga Beach. Until then, your municipal government will continue to serve residents.

Your council realizes that for many people this is a challenging financial time so we are looking at ways the municipality can help you. These will be discussed by council in the near future.

It is important that for accurate information about town services you visit our website at www.wasagabeach.com. Our COVID-19 page is [here](#). You can also access reliable information from our town social media channels.

I want to share with you this video link to a PBS program that speaks to the science of a pandemic. I think you will find it informative. Please click [here](#).

One of my final points, for now, is community well-being. We can help each other get through this period by remembering to keep our spirits up. Humour is still OK. Music, too. Dance like no one is watching – because right now no one is. Reading will help us get through the day as well. We can still enjoy walks also.

Ultimately, beating COVID-19 depends on us working together.

Lastly, please know we remain in regular contact with our counterparts, public health, and upper-tier levels of government.

We will get through this as a community. And we will be stronger and more united than ever when we see happier times return.”

Talk soon,

Mayor Nina Bifulchi.

Resources:

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

[Click here](#)

Ontario Ministry of Health

[Click here](#)

**Town of Wasaga Beach
Facilities – updated March 16, 2020**

Facility	Action
Arena	Closed – all programs and rentals cancelled
RecPlex/YMCA	Closed – all programs and rentals cancelled
Youth Centre/Seniors Active Living Centre	Closed – all programs and rentals cancelled
Town Hall	Closed to the public – but staff onsite and working during regular business hours. Monday to Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Library	Closed – all programs and rentals cancelled
Public Works	Closed to the public – but staff onsite and working during regular business hours.
Transit	Operational
Fire Halls	Closed to the public – but staff onsite and working during regular business hours. 9-1-1 services operational.

For media requiring additional information, please contact:

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