

TOWN OF AURORA
COVID-19 UPDATE



PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

To provide Council with a summary of actions taken under the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain municipal services

To clarify Orders under the new State of Emergency and stay-at-home order

To provide an update on operational impacts due to the new Orders

AGENDA

1. Municipal staffing and services
2. Current regulatory framework
3. Community services impacts
4. Enforcement
5. Wrap-up

MUNICIPAL STAFFING AND PROGRAMS

STAFFING

- Staff required to work from home if at all possible
- 248 staff impacted by layoffs (casual, contract, part-time)
 - 23 on leave since April 2020
 - 205 currently on infectious disease emergency leave
 - 20 to go on leave January/February
- Continuous review of redeployment needs and possibilities to support operations
- Enforcement of screening & masking protocols where presence at workplace is required

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Town of Aurora approach: balance health and safety with quality of life
- Maintained vast majority of municipal services
- Focused on innovation and new ways of doing business
- One of the only municipalities that has maintained special events programming

CURRENT REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

2020 DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

- Made on March 17, 2020 pursuant to the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*
- Aurora also declared on the same day
- Provincial state of emergency was terminated July 24, 2020 under *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*
- Aurora's declared state of emergency remains in effect

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN

	Decision Made	Authority	Reason
1	Closure of facilities	CAO authority in Municipal Act, 2001 and Delegation of Authority By-law No. 6212-19	To respect the social distancing rules and assist in flattening the curve
2	Closure of Town Hall and JOC to public	CAO authority in Municipal Act, 2001 and Delegation of Authority By-law No. 6212-19	To respect the social distancing rules and assist in flattening the curve
3	Cancel Advisory Committee Meetings	Clerk delegated authority in Procedure Bylaw No. 6068-18	To respect the social distancing rules and assist in flattening the curve
4	Declare an Emergency	Mayor authority in s. 4(1) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act	To align with the provincial declaration, to be able to access tools to deal with the situation (including possible funding) and to support residents and staff
5	Cancel General Committee and Council Meetings	Mayor authority in s. 4(1) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and in accordance with the Procedure Bylaw No. 6068-18	To respect the social distancing rules and assist in flattening the curve
6	Suspension of parking restrictions	Mayor authority in s. 4(1) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, upon consultation with staff	To encourage residents to stay home to self-isolate or work remotely
7	Defer due dates for taxes	Mayor authority in s. 4(1) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, upon consultation with staff	To assist residents who have lost their income during this period
8	Essential Services only for Town staff	CAO authority in Municipal Act, 2001 and Delegation of Authority By-law No. 6212-19	To respect the social distancing rules and assist in flattening the curve
9	Close playgrounds and parks	Director delegated authority in Parks By-law No. 4752-05.P	To ensure children do not play on unsanitized playgrounds; To respect the social distancing and social gathering rules and assist in flattening the curve

OTHER RELEVANT PROVINCIALS AMENDMENTS/ORDERS

- Electronic Meetings
- Noise Regulation re: Delivery of Goods
- Noise Regulation re: construction projects
- Planning Act and Building Code Timelines

2021 DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

- Made on January 14, 2021
- Allowed the province to issue new orders, including the Stay-at-Home Order
- All existing orders remain under the ROA and may be amended
- Stage 1 Order amended

STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Permitted purposes include:

1. Work/Volunteer, school and childcare
2. Obtaining goods and services
3. Assisting others
4. Health, safety and legal purposes
5. Multiple residences and moving
6. Travel
7. Gatherings
8. Animals

RULES FOR AREAS IN STAGE 1 ORDER

- General Requirements, including public health measure and capacity limits
- Retailers, including big box and discount stores, that primarily sell food – open
- Other Retailers – curbside pick-up or delivery only
- Restaurants – open for take-out, drive-through or delivery only
- Services – many still permitted, including, those that promote health care and social services or are to support children, seniors or vulnerable persons or necessary for the health and welfare of animals

RULES FOR AREAS IN STAGE 1 ORDER (continued)

- Community Centres
- Construction Projects
- Outdoor recreational amenities
- Public libraries – curbside pickup and return of materials; may open to provide social services
- Refer to Order for all businesses or services that may open and with what conditions or restrictions
- Questions regarding Order can be referred to the Province at:
1(888)444-3659

RULES FOR AREAS IN STAGE 1 ORDER (continued)

- Organized Public Events or Social Gatherings
 - Indoor events or social gatherings not permitted
 - Indoor wedding, funeral or religious **service, rite or ceremony** permitted – 10-person limit and physical distancing rules apply (unless gathering is in a motor vehicle)
 - Outdoor events or social gathering permitted – up to 5 people, with physical distancing

COMMUNITY SERVICES IMPACTS

FACILITIES

- Cost mitigation measures:
 - Removed ice from AFLC and ACC 1 – monthly savings of approximately \$10,000-\$12,000 (takes 2 weeks to restart ice)
 - Maintain ice in ACC 2, SARC – ability to restart quickly to generate revenue
 - Removed water from hot tub and therapy pool
 - Maintain water in large tanks – costly to refill
- Overall measures to reduce utility costs: reduced facility temperatures, turned off lighting where possible, reduced pool temperatures & pump circulation frequency
- Goal: mitigate without impeding ability to start back up quickly as needed

OUTDOOR ICE PADS

- 4 municipal ice pads (maintained by the Town)
 - 2 at Town Park
 - 2 at Ada Johnson Park
- 2 community ice pads (maintained by local volunteers)
 - 1 at Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park
 - 1 at James Lloyd Park

OUTDOOR ICE PADS (continued)

- All 6 ice pads will follow the same process:
 - Pre-registration, Aurora Residents Only
 - 25 maximum per timeslot (exception: James Lloyd Park)
 - 45-minute limit
 - Mandatory masks
 - Security detail to monitor compliance
- Outdoor skating is permitted within the Order; no capacity limits but 2m physical distancing is required and no team sports or games are permitted

To register you need to set up an [e-PLAY account](#)

*Registration will open 48hrs before

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- Continue to offer virtual programs, but have now moved and adapted more of the in-person programs to virtual
 - What's Cooking
 - Creative Projects
 - Exercise at Home
 - STEM activities
 - Themed Take Home Kits
 - Virtual Tours places locally and around the world
 - Preschool, Children's, Youth, Adult and Seniors Activities

Programs and events can be viewed on our [recreation webpage](#)

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS (continued)

- Cabin Fever Reliever – Photo Contest
- Geocaching 101
- Seniors Centre Without Walls
- Seniors - Fitness in a Bag
- Skylight Gallery – “Inspirations from Outside”
- Arctic Adventure – Family Day – staff exploring virtual opportunities

EMERGENCY WARMING CENTRE

- Under the current provincial orders and public health regulations, Emergency Warming Centres are an essential service.
- The Town's Emergency Warming Centre, located at the SARC, will be activated whenever York Region issues an Extreme Cold Weather Advisory
- The Centre will be operational from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week, during any Extreme Cold Weather Advisory

ENFORCEMENT IMPACTS

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATING PARAMETERS

- Enforcement efforts will be focussed on non-compliant businesses and outdoor social gatherings above the limit of 5 people
- Under the declaration of Provincial Emergency Municipal Law Enforcement Officers have authority to:
 - Require ID if reasonable grounds to believe an offence has been committed
 - Temporarily close premises where event or gathering exceeds the limits under Reopening Ontario Act
 - Disperse crowds or groups where non-compliance is observed
- If voluntary compliance is not achieved Bylaw Services will require Police assistance.
- Cannot enforce stay-at-home order due to lack of enforcement framework in place and individual judgment for leaving residence

REGIONAL COORDINATED ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

- A Regional Task Force was established at the onset of Covid-19 with the objective of having a consistent and coordinated approach to enforcement across the region
- All 9 Municipal Bylaw units participate in Regional COVID-19 Task Force as well as other government agencies including Police, Public Health, Ministry of Labour, AGCO and others
- Task Force meetings weekly to address issues and coordinate enforcement activities
- Proactive blitzes and joint inspections are conducted
- Weekly reports on inspections and charges provided to the Region and to Ministry of the Solicitor General to support guideline and restriction decisions

WRAP-UP & NEXT STEPS

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

- All municipal programs currently operating within budget despite COVID-19 impacts
- Financial impacts to be shared in forecast report in June
- 2020 impacts were mitigated within operating budget
- Safe Restart funding received to date = \$1,847,500

COMMUNICATIONS

- Extremely active communication program during COVID-19
- Used variety of tools: social, web, print, advertising, signage, media products, infographics, Engage Aurora
- 100's of social media posts, with an initial reach of approximately 25,000 each post
- Active participation in regional communications task force to coordinate messaging across region

NEXT STEPS

- Continued flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances
- Committed and dedicated staff team
- Active collaboration with Region and municipalities within region
- Ongoing dialogue with Council to provide updates
- Supporting regional vaccination program roll-out

REGIONAL VACCINATION PROGRAM

- Vaccination program to be led by Regional public health units
- Municipalities invited to support vaccination clinics by providing staff to be deployed
- Deployment dates: February to December, three-month minimum
- Full-time and part-time deployments available
- Offer extended to Town of Aurora employees to express interest
- Municipal operations take priority over deployment

LOCKDOWN RULES IN ONTARIO



ONLY LEAVE YOUR HOME FOR ESSENTIAL TRAVEL



- Grocery, Gas & Pharmacy Shopping
- Pick-up, take-out or drive through from restaurants
- Accessing health care services
- Exercising outdoors & walking pets
- Assisting others in need of support
- Accessing child care
- Caring for your pets
- Going to a bank



GATHERINGS



- Limit contact to only your household members
- If you live alone, you can gather with one other household only
- Five people can gather outdoors - keep a 2-meter distance
- Wear a face mask or face covering indoors and outdoors
- Attend a funeral, religious service or wedding with up to 10 people

Non-essential construction, including below-grade projects, will be limited



SHOPPING

- Non-essential stores can only provide curbside pickup or delivery from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Restrictions do not apply to stores that sell food, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores and restaurants for takeout and delivery

ENFORCEMENT



SCHOOLS

Ontario Provincial Police, local police forces, bylaw officers, and provincial workplace inspectors, will have the authority to issue tickets to individuals found in contravention with the stay-at-home order

Elementary and secondary schools will be remote until February 10, 2021
Students in Grades 1 to 12 must wear a face mask

QUESTIONS?

More information:

View the Town of Aurora [COVID-19 page](#)

View the Government of Ontario
[Emergency Information page](#)