



SMALL URBAN GTHA MAYORS MEET WITH PREMIER DOUG FORD AND DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER OF HEALTH, CHRISTINE ELLIOTT

**For Immediate Release
February 5, 2021**

“The Small Urban GTHA Mayors met yesterday with Premier Doug Ford and Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Christine Elliott, about impacts of Covid-19 in each of their communities, specifically as it relates to provincial regulations, vaccine rollouts and small business.

The Small Urban GTHA Mayors called on the Premier to consider vetting proposed regulation changes with Heads of Council as there is often confusion as to what is and is not permitted, such is the case with outdoor recreational activities. The Premier continued to urge people to stay at home as much as possible, but confirmed that some outdoor leisure activities are permitted as long as they’re not organized team sports, and masks and appropriate distancing are in place. The same can be said about residential construction, inspections can proceed by local building officials on open residential construction projects.

The Small Urban GTHA Mayors reiterated their commitment to supporting the Province on vaccine rollouts and are ready to work with Public Health Units in ensuring that the most number of residents receive the vaccine as soon as they are made available. There will be no shortage of staff to help administer the vaccines in a timely and organized manner and it is imperative that we reach everyone, including those living in group settings. Rapid testing is available to these groups and testing should be done each and everyday to stop the spread of Covid-19 and its variants.

The Small Urban GTHA Mayors agree with the decision to test and screen incoming travellers for Covid-19 and support the Premier in urging the Federal government to implement changes to Paid Sick Leave regulations for those affected in order to help stop the spread of the virus through local transmission.

The Small Urban GTHA Mayors reminded the Premier of the toll this pandemic has taken on small business and emphasized considering small business to reopen by appointment only as soon as possible while still abiding by the appropriate safety measures.

It is only by working collaboratively with all levels of government that we will move ahead of this pandemic and are grateful for the partnerships established in reaching the common goal of keeping our communities safe and healthy.”

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