



PRESS RELEASE
Town of Fort Frances Emergency Control Group

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - The Town of Fort Frances has declared an emergency to the Province of Ontario due to Public Health Concerns. March 19th, 2020

The Town of Fort Frances Emergency Management Control Group met today at 1:00pm to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are still actively monitoring the situation and will be continuing to regularly meet to ensure that the community is provided with appropriate and timely updates.

With this stated, we continue to take actions on preparing our community for the fight against COVID-19. The Town of Fort Frances is committed to taking all actions deemed necessary to protect the health & welfare of our residents and the general public. Which is why today The Town of Fort Frances has declared an emergency to the Province of Ontario due to Public Health Concerns.

This declaration was completed to ensure that The Town of Fort Frances continues to be proactive with having the necessary resources in place to combat COVID-19.

We are still reminding the general public to continue to follow all recommendations provided to them by our public health professionals:

- Check on your neighbours, offer your help and support to run errands. While keeping social distancing practices at the fore front.
- Wash your hands with soap and water thoroughly and often.
- Following cough and sneeze etiquette.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Practice social distancing as much as possible (2-3 meters physical contact), Even when enjoying outdoors.
- Avoid unnecessary group interactions such as parties, social gatherings, large meetings etc.
- Frequently used surfaces should be cleaned & disinfected regularly using appropriate cleaning methods.

We encourage the local business community to adjust their hours of operation to safely accommodate those vulnerable residents, so that they can replenish their resources. For example, a business could offer a period after opening exclusively for vulnerable residents. We also recommend that the business community implement a rigorous cleaning/disinfection program in their workplaces.

All non-essential travel should be cancelled until further notice. Travellers returning to their homes are required to follow the Federal Government Guidelines.

At this time, based on advice from local physicians, we are recommending that travellers returning home from out of country go straight home and self-isolate for 14 days. We recommend that these individuals arrange for a friend or family member to pick up essential supplies for them and keep social distancing in mind when receiving groceries or supplies.

We are still encouraging residents who have concerns regarding COVID-19 to contact the Northwestern Health Unit at **1-807-468-7109** or Telehealth Ontario **1-866-797-0000** to receive assistance. Those seeking for more information are advised to visit the Northwestern Health Unit, and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care websites.

In addition, there has been an COVID-19 assessment centre established by Riverside Healthcare Facilities at 206 Victoria Avenue. This service is by appointment only, no walk-in appointments will be accepted. Residents are advised to visit Northwestern Health Unit at **1-807-468-7109**.

We thank you for your patience and understanding and would like you to be reassured that we will continue to work to keep our staff and the general public safe and healthy.

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