

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, March 13, 2020



**WELLAND INITIATES FACILITY AND EVENTS CLOSURES DUE TO COVID-19**

The City of Welland is taking the health and wellbeing of Niagara's residents into consideration with a decision to temporarily close public facilities and cancel city hosted special events until April 5, 2020. Welland's City Corporate Leadership Team is taking precautions to curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID -19) in Niagara, which now has one confirmed case in the City of St. Catharines.

Welland Civic Square remains open during regular business hours. Hand sanitizer stations are available, and visitors are encouraged to use them when entering and leaving the facility. Welland Transit is operating with the same hours of service.

The Province of Ontario has also initiated preparedness plans, including school closures, to avoid spreading COVID-19; and the City of Welland is working in collaboration with upper and lower-tier governments for the best outcome.

Niagara Region Public Health is encouraging residents to practice proper handwashing, to cover coughs, and to stay home from work when feeling unwell. Although risk levels remain low in Niagara, the City of Welland is focused on efforts to protect front-line staff and the public from potential exposure to COVID-19.

**Effective immediately, the following facilities and services will be closed until April 5, 2020:**

The Jack Ballantyne Memorial Youth Arena & Main Arena  
The Welland Community Wellness Complex  
The Welland Public Library (all three branches)  
The Welland Museum  
The Welland International Flatwater Centre  
Welland Market Square (including Welland Farmers' Markets)  
Youngs Sportsplex  
Youth Innovations

**The following city hosted events are cancelled:**

Luck of the Irish, March 14, at the Welland Farmers' Market  
All March Break Skates, March 16 to 19, at the Welland Arenas  
March Break Special Events, March 19 to 21, at the Welland Community Wellness Complex and the Welland Public Library  
All Welland Farmers' Markets, March 14, 21, 28, & April 4, At Market Square  
Recreation and Wellness Expo Welland, March 28, at Welland Community Wellness Complex

City staff recognize that closures will impact a host of users and organizations; however, these measures are necessary to lessen the spread of COVID-19. All individuals or organizations affected by these closures will have their facility rental fees refunded without penalty and staff will work to reschedule events.

For more information, please visit the City's website at [welland.ca](http://welland.ca). For updated information regarding COVID-19 and preventative measures, visit the Niagara Region Public Health website at [niagararegion.ca](http://niagararegion.ca).

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