

**For Immediate Release**  
Friday, April 3, 2020



**COVID-19 UPDATE: CITY MAKES ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS TO PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES**

**Welland** – The City of Welland is making additional adjustments to programming and services to protect the health and well-being of the public and to mitigate the financial impact to residents and businesses affected by COVID-19.

**Transit Services effective Sunday, April 5, 2020 and until further notice:**

**Welland Transit**

Welland Transit will operate 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., 7 days per week, on the 'Community Bus' routes. For further clarification on this new level of service, kindly visit [www.welland.ca/transit](http://www.welland.ca/transit) or call (905) 735-1700 ext. 2291.

**Niagara Region Transit**

Until further notice, all Niagara Region Transit service operates on the hourly frequency Saturday service, Monday to Saturday. For further information, kindly visit [niagararegion.ca/transit](http://niagararegion.ca/transit) or call (905) 980-6000 ext. 3550.

**Port Colborne Community Link**

Effective Monday, April 6, 2020, the Port Colborne Community routes will commence at 8 a.m. and operate until 6 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Seating will be limited to approximately 10 customers to ensure physical distancing. Customers will be asked to board at the rear doors and passengers requiring a mobility device will be accommodated at the front doors.

There will be no fares required by our customers until further notice.

**Services remain operational for those requiring transportation to essential services (medical, pharmaceutical, employment, caregiver) and thus, all other trips should be avoided at this time.**

**Deferral of Rate Increase for Water/Wastewater Billings**

Retail rate increases for Water/Wastewater billings, normally scheduled for April, May and June billings, will be deferred until the billing cycle commencing July 1, 2020, to provide additional financial relief to our residents and businesses.

## **Enforcement of Provincial Orders under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA)**

On Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Ontario government issued a new immediate Emergency Order under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* to prohibit organized public events and social gatherings of more than five people. The Province granted special authority to municipal by-law officers or agents to enforce emergency orders to contain the spread of COVID-19.

City of Welland By-law staff are working closely with the Niagara Regional Police Service to enforce Provincial Orders. Upon receiving a complaint, By-law enforcement staff will follow up with homeowners/business owners and advise them of the Order.

If you observe any violation of a Provincial Order, please contact the City's Bylaw Division directly at 905-735-1700 ext. 2224 or by email to [bylaw\\_enforc@welland.ca](mailto:bylaw_enforc@welland.ca). The By-law Enforcement Team is available Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If a violation occurs outside of these hours, please contact Niagara Regional Police Service at the non-emergency number 905-688-4111.

If you are a business owner and you have questions about the temporary measures including closures and essential workplaces, call the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.

For more information on City of Welland facility closures, programs and event cancellations, and how to reach city staff, visit <https://www.welland.ca/hottopics/COVID-19.asp>. For more information on how to stay healthy during the COVID-19 outbreak, visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/default.aspx?topic=1>.

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