

Thursday, April 1, 2021

MEDIA RELEASE



COVID-19: EMERGENCY BREAK MEANS LOCKDOWN FOR NIAGARA

Welland, ON – Emergency brake for Ontario moves Niagara into a four-week COVID-19 shutdown. The level Grey – Lockdown of the provincial government’s COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open will start at 12:01AM Saturday April 3, 2021.

The provincewide emergency brake would put in place time-limited public health and workplace safety measures to help to stop the rapid transmission of COVID-19 variants in communities, protect hospital capacity and save lives. Measures include, but are not limited to:

- Prohibiting indoor organized public events and social gatherings and limiting the capacity for outdoor organized public events or social gatherings to a 5-person maximum, except for gatherings with members of the same household (the people you live with) or gatherings of members of one household and one other person from another household who lives alone.
- Restricting in-person shopping in all retail settings, including a 50 per cent capacity limit for supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, indoor farmers' markets, other stores that primarily sell food and pharmacies, and 25 per cent for all other retail including big box stores, along with other public health and workplace safety measures;
- Prohibiting the use of facilities for indoor or outdoor sports and recreational fitness with very limited exceptions.

The following city services and programming changes:

Welland Arenas (501 King St.): The Welland Arenas will be closed for the lockdown. The ice will be removed for the season; staff anticipate the arenas will re-open for dry-floor rentals May 3, 2021. Further information in regards to re-opening will be communicated on <https://www.welland.ca/hottopics/Covid-19.asp>

Welland Community Wellness Complex (WCWC): The Welland Community Wellness Complex will remain closed during the four-week lockdown. Staff anticipate the WCWC will re-open for Spring programming on May 3, 2021. For the latest updates and information on program schedules and COVID-19 facility procedures, visit www.wellness.welland.ca and <https://www.welland.ca/hottopics/Covid-19.asp>.

Welland Farmers’ Market (Market Square, 70 Young St.): The Farmers’ Market will continue operations through the lockdown and continue implementing guidelines as advised by Public Health, including strict social distancing and sanitization measures for vendors and patrons.

Welland Public Library: The Welland Public Library will continue Virtual programming and will be offering curbside/contactless pickup, computer/printing/copier appointments. Court appointments will be available during regularly scheduled hours. Patrons can call any of our locations to make an appointment or for more information.

Youngs Sportsplex (570 River Rd.): Youngs Sportsplex indoor and outdoor activities will remain closed during the lockdown. For more information, visit www.youngssportsplex.com.

Water service and water meter services:

- Water meter installations for new home construction will continue by appointment only, subject to COVID-19 screening and building permit
- Water quality complaints by appointment only and subject to COVID-19 screening and protocols
- Emergency water meter maintenance (water meter only) by appointment only subject to COVID-19 screening and protocols
- Exterior water meter general maintenance only
- Emergency repairs to the water service from the watermain to the property line to be completed as required

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In-person water meter inspections for real estate transactions are cancelled. Vendors must call for remote inspection instructions, which include submission of two photos of the existing water meter installation (top view and side view) and forward via email to pw@welland.ca.

Sanitary sewer lateral services

All scheduled appointments will be cancelled for the duration of the lockdown. If you have a scheduled appointment, please contact a Public Works Clerk at 905-735-1700 ext. 3000 for instructions and to re-schedule your appointment.

Suspended until Further Notice:

- Sewer rodding of sanitary sewer laterals from inside the home
- CCTV inspections of sanitary sewer laterals from inside the home
- CCTV of sanitary sewer Laterals for the Sewage Water Alleviation Program
- Emergency repair of the sanitary sewer lateral by city forces from mainline to the property line to be completed as required

All presently scheduled appointments will be cancelled for the duration of the lockdown. If you have a scheduled appointment, please contact a Public Works Clerk at 905-735-1700 ext. 3000 for instructions and to re-schedule your appointment.

To ensure physical distancing and safe work practices, residents or owners receiving emergency city services must first complete a COVID-19 questionnaire. If emergency work is required, the resident or owner must ensure the workspace is clear and safe. Public Works services are by appointment only. Appointments can be booked from Mon. to Fri., 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., at 905-735-1700 Extension 3000.

For more information on City of Welland services while in grey lockdown and how to access services, visit welland.ca.

For more information on Ontario's response to COVID-19, visit ontario.ca.

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