



April 2, 2020
Public Service Announcement
For Immediate Release

Update – Coronavirus (COVID-19)

SACKVILLE, N.B. — The Town of Sackville continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation very closely and following the instructions given by the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for New Brunswick.

In an effort to protect our employee and residents, and to continue to provide essential services to our community and help reduce the spread of the virus, the following measures have been implemented and are based on the information we currently have. Given the manner in which the COVID-19 situation is progressing, we will look to provide further updates as this situation continues to develop.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor provided a community message by video today, which you can view here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpJArVNacc8>

REDUCING THE POSSIBILITIES OF TRANSMISSION

We all have an obligation to reduce the spread of the virus. Residents need to follow the prevention measures suggested by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for New Brunswick to reduce the possibility of spreading the virus as presented on the website of Health New Brunswick:

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/respiratory_diseases/corona_virus/protect-yourself-and-others.html

Key messages include:

- Wash your hands often.
- Cough and sneeze into the elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands.
- Cough into a tissue and throw it away.
- Stay at home if you are sick.
- Avoid contact with a sick person.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if there is no soap and water.
- Avoid shaking hands.

- Practice social distancing, (maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance between yourself and others)
- If a person experiences symptoms, call Tele-care 8-1-1

Residents must follow good health practices and strict adherence to the measures as outlined by the Province of NB to help reduce the delay and spread of COVID-19.

We are in contact with the Province's Emergency Measures Organization and are currently reviewing Town operations to ensure business continuity and service delivery (especially essential services) in the event of an emergency activation.

Additional measures may be added as directed by the New Brunswick Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. We will keep you informed through our social media sites and website.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/respiratory_diseases/corona_virus.html

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

INFORMATION LINE AND EMAIL

A toll-free information line and email address, which offers services in both languages, has been established by the Province of New Brunswick to help answer non-health related questions, including questions about compliance with the state of emergency. The number, 1-844-462-8387, is operational seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The email address is helpaide@gnb.ca. Concerns about workplace safety should continue to be directed to WorkSafeNB.

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Tele-care: Patient Connect NB; 811
 Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
 CHIMO Helpline (crisis line): 1-800-667-5005
 RCMP: 911 for emergencies only
 Sackville Memorial Hospital: 364-4100

GROCERY SHOPPING TIPS

- Designation one person in your household to get essential items, such as groceries, prescriptions, fuel, etc.
- Do not make daily visits to the store.
- Wait your turn when shopping and avoid reaching over others.
- Always maintain social distancing and make sure there is 6-feet (2-metres) between you and another individual at all times.
- Pay very close attention to the instructions provided by the store.
- Use one of the delivery or pick-up options available.

- Wherever possible, stay home.

E-MAIL AND PHONE SCAMS

Unfortunately, e-mail phishing and telephone scams are increasing, and we want to remind residents and business owners to be mindful to use caution when opening e-mails and providing personal information over the telephone.

SELF-CARE

The Chief Medical Officer of Health for New Brunswick has emphasized the importance of people taking care of themselves during this stressful time and has encouraged healthy eating, exercising and getting enough sleep.

UPDATES FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES

As a result of COVID-19 and the State of Emergency in the Province of New Brunswick, many of our local businesses have been forced to close, change processes and alter opening hours. To help promote these necessary business changes we have created a page to share current opening hours and options. If you have an update that you would like us to include, please contact 364-4930. Business updates can be found at: <https://sackville.com/2020/03/updates-from-local-businesses/>

DISINFECTANT WIPES

While we encourage residents to take the necessary precautions to ensure their homes and belongings are clean, please do not flush these wipes as they can clog our sanitary sewer lift station pumps. They belong in your clear bag.

FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES AND OTHER EVENTS

Town Hall is closed to the public until further notice.

Effective March 23, our unionized employees are working two split shifts of one week on and one week off and are focusing on essential services only. In addition, a variety of managers are alternating working remotely where possible.

All recreational programs and facilities (except for our parks and trails) are closed to the public until further notice. **Playground structures are also closed, as are all public washrooms. While our parks and trails are open, users must practice social and physical distancing of 2 metres at all times.**

A full list of recreation program cancellations and events/workshops is provided below.

The Sackville Public Library is closed until further notice.

The Public Works Facility, Civic Centre and Bill Johnstone Activity Centre are closed to the public.

The Fire Station operational areas are available to active members only and required town staff.

Access to the secure area of Town Hall is limited to the Mayor and Town staff.

The skate park and community garden are closed to the public until further notice.

Water bill and property tax payments can be made online. Dog tags and By-law ticket payments are being suspended until further notice.

Interest will not be charged on overdue water and sewer accounts for the month of March.

All deliveries, courier pick-ups, etc., will continue at Town facilities with minimal interaction.

We will work with our community stakeholders to encourage cancellation and/or postponement for non-Town facilitated events and programs.

The May 2020 Municipal Elections have been delayed until on or before May 2021.

The border between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is closed to all non-essential travel as part of the Nova Scotia State of Emergency.

These measures are intended to reduce the spread of the virus to protect the health of our employees and community. In all other respects, it is business as usual for our organization, including Office Hours at Town Hall, snow clearing, garbage collection, police and fire protection, water and wastewater utilities, etc.

OTHER TOWN CANCELLATIONS

Recreation Programs:

Aquasize
50+ and Primetime Aerobics
Adult Basketball
Pickleball
Trailblazers Afterschool Program
4 on 4 Youth Hockey Challenge
Ukulele
Granny's Playground
Women's Shiny Hockey
Recreation and Sports Fair - April 9

Events/Workshops:

Mountie Day Flag Raising – March 26
Anti-Inflammatory Eating Workshop – April 1
Tourism Strategic Plan Public Input Meetings – March 31 and April 2
Municipal Open House – March 24

Other upcoming events that are pending:

Poetry Month Open Mic - late April

VIC/Craft Gallery Opening May 1
Operation Beautification May 7
Web Presence Bootcamp for Businesses – May 20
Bordertown May 27 - 31
Sports Wall of Fame Induction June 11
Volunteer Night June 25

CLEANING OF TOWN FACILITIES

The municipality has already taken measures in its facilities to try to reduce the risks of contamination, such as:

- The frequency of cleaning in high traffic areas has been increased.
- Additional cleaning has been introduced in public areas.
- New automatic hand sanitizing stations have been installed throughout Town Hall.
- Posting of COVID-19 information posters, websites and other information as produced by the provincial government.
- Monitoring of soap dispensers in order to ensure that they are always filled.

TRAVEL FOR TRAINING AND MEETINGS OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE

For prevention reasons, work-related travel for training and meetings that is to take place outside the province is suspended for our employees, with the exception of the Amherst area which is permitted with management authorization.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

The Town is following the Federal and Provincial Government's travel advice, including:

- All employees have been encouraged to avoid all non-essential travel outside of Canada until further notice.
- All travellers arriving in Canada from international points as of March 13, 2020 must [self-isolate](#) for 14 days. Self-isolation means staying at home and avoiding contact with other people to help prevent the spread of disease to others in your home and your community.
- All international travellers must self-monitor for [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 for 14 days after returning to Canada. If you start having symptoms, immediately call Tele-care 8-1-1. Describe your symptoms and travel history. They will provide advice on what you should do.

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