

# PRESS RELEASE – ELGIN COUNTY COVID-19 FACILITIES AND SERVICES UPDATE SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020

Elgin County has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and preparing for potential impacts to our community and workplace. The health and safety of the public and our employees is our main priority. Please be advised of the following operational changes that are effective immediately, including:

## **County Administration Building:**

- The County Administration Building is scheduled to remain open to the public at this time. Residents are encouraged to avoid all but essential trips to the County office. Whenever possible, please reach County staff by phone or email.

## **Long Term Care:**

- The Ministry has mandated a restriction on all non-essential visits to Long Term Care Homes (Elgin Manor, Bobier Villa, Terrace Lodge);
- The Adult Day Program is cancelled until further notice.
- The Terrace Lodge pool is closed.

## **Public Libraries and Heritage Centre:**

- In keeping with guidelines from senior levels of government and in order to protect the public and our employees, all Elgin County Public Libraries and Heritage Centre are CLOSED until further notice.
- Library due dates will be extended and the Library will continue to offer a range of online tools and resources – please visit the County's website or call 519-631-1460 x. 148.
- Elgin County Archives will also be closed until further notice. Staff will continue to respond to research inquiries through email at [gdewaele@elgin.ca](mailto:gdewaele@elgin.ca).

## **Provincial Offences Act (POA):**

- POA Matters scheduled from Monday, March 16, 2020 through to and including Friday, April 3, 2020 will be adjourned and rescheduled to a later date. If you have a matter scheduled during this time, you do not need to attend court.
- A notice of your new court date will be sent to you by mail to the address on file with the court.
- Payments of tickets through [www.paytickets.ca](http://www.paytickets.ca) is encouraged, but if you need to pay in person, please contact the Provincial Offences Administration. For more information, please call 519-631-1460 x. 300.

We continue to be guided by public health officials at Southwestern Public Health and at the province in taking actions to protect Elgin County residents and visitors from COVID-19. Any changes to meeting schedules including County Council Meetings and Committee Meetings will be available on Elgin County's website ([www.elgincounty.ca](http://www.elgincounty.ca)).

All public health officials agree that the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to follow typical flu precautions including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth;
- Avoid contact with people who are sick; and
- Stay home if you are sick.

Please visit the County's website at [www.elgincounty.ca](http://www.elgincounty.ca) for updates on this matter. Southwestern Public Health is your best source for accurate and up-to-date information about COVID-19 in Elgin County. Visit the website at [www.swpublichealth.ca](http://www.swpublichealth.ca).

We look forward to providing further updates to you in the days ahead.

For further information contact:

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