



May 29, 2020

For immediate release

## All Elgin County beaches remain closed to the public

**COUNTY OF ELGIN** – All public beaches in Elgin County, including those in Port Burwell, Port Bruce, Port Stanley and Port Glasgow, remain closed to the public under public health restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 emergency pandemic. “The first heat advisory of the year this past week has increased the temptation to visit our beautiful beaches in Elgin County but we still cannot take the risk of opening them to the public at the present time” stated Elgin County Warden Dave Mennill. “Beaches are by their nature congregant spaces and we just cannot take the risk of encouraging such gatherings.” All public beaches in Elgin County remain closed under the following considerations and regulations:

- Gatherings of more than five people are still prohibited according to the Province of Ontario’s emergency order in response to the pandemic.
- Public safety cannot be compromised. Lifeguarding and other safety measures have not been fully deployed to permit safe opening at the present time.
- The Ontario Provincial Police and Municipal By-law Enforcement will be conducting regular patrols of all Elgin County beaches. Any use of public beaches will be rigorously enforced and charges may be issued for any violations.

Circumstances are subject to change based on on-going advice from the Province of Ontario and Southwestern Public Health (SWPH). Municipalities are working towards re-opening beaches safely in consultation with SWPH but no date has been set. Stay informed on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in Elgin County by visiting the [SWPH website](#). “If we remain vigilant in the fight against COVID-19, and continue our successful efforts to date, we could see these restrictions lifted soon but that time is not now” stated Warden Mennill.

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