



March 16, 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL ELGIN IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL DISTANCING

As the current COVID-19 situation rapidly evolves, we remain committed to the health, safety and well-being our residents, visitors and staff. We will continually communicate, as we monitor updates from all levels of government to ensure the health and safety of all is at our forefront.

Today, based on all available information we have restricted access to our office unless urgent matters arise. This is not only for the protection of staff, but for the public as well. We will do our best to go above and beyond to serve everyone through other methods.

The Municipality of Central Elgin is suspending operations of several municipal facilities as well as postponing committee **meetings** to help protect the health and safety of the public and our employees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Municipality has closed the **Belmont Arena** and the **Port Stanley Arena** for a three week period commencing March 16, 2020. All events and programs in these facilities will be affected by this closure.

The due date for **water/wastewater bills** has been extend one month to eliminate this need to attend the Municipal Office this month. Water/wastewater customers are encouraged to pay their bills electronically through their banks and credit unions.

“Central Elgin is working with the County of Elgin, neighbouring municipalities and public health officials in implementing preventative measures to protect the health of our citizens.” stated Mayor Sally Martyn. “I know these closings and restrictions are an inconvenience, but we must all do our part to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.”

The Municipality will continue to closely monitor the recommendations of public health officials during this rapidly changing situation. It may be necessary for the Municipality to take further actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on the recommendation of our public health officials.

We do not take lightly that this decision will cause unintended challenges and concerns. Please know that we are doing everything we can within our resources and abilities to treat this unique situation with the utmost thoughtfulness and care for all involved.

Further information on the COVID-19 pandemic is available from:

- Southwestern Public Health
- Ontario Ministry of Health
- Public Health Authority of Canada

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