

EMERGENCY DECLARATION
VIDEO SCRIPT
FOR RELEASE:

Mayor Wayne Redekop:

Good morning. Today, April 3rd, the Town of Fort Erie has declared a state of emergency in response to COVID 19.

I am proud to stand with my council, Regional Chair Bradley and the other Mayors of Niagara in making this declaration because we are all in this together.

The Town of Fort Erie has been closely monitoring the spread of COVID19 in our community. The number of cases continues to increase as testing is expanded and time has progressed. We need to prepare for this and the deaths in Niagara, even Fort Erie, that will occur. However, we have the ability to influence the spread of this scourge.

The increase in cases will apply even more pressure and stress on our already strained frontline health care workers and support staff. Therefore, we all need to step up and do our part.

We need to commit to protecting the health care and hospital workers and support staff from being overwhelmed.

We need to commit to protecting our loved ones and to protecting those who are still working hard in your community to serve us.

This commitment means abiding by regulations and guidelines put in place by public health authorities.

This declaration is a call to action: EVERYONE needs to join the fight against COVID19.

If you are occasionally breaking or ignoring the rules, I'm telling you it's time to stop. Get with the program. Your failure to comply is putting others at risk and it is irresponsible.

We now have mandatory public health and emergency directives that must be followed. EVERYONE needs to:

- Stop all gatherings of more than five people (this includes private gatherings of extended family) Beautiful weather and the approaching religious holidays are no exception
- Avoid all outdoor recreational amenities, including active parks, playgrounds and sports fields
- Close all non-essential businesses

- Stay home as much as possible and only leave your house once if absolutely required
- Self-isolate for 14 days if you have symptoms or have returned to Canada from being outside the country
- Practice physical distancing (at least 6 feet)

The Town has powers to enforce these directives with significant fines. And we will do so.

These are serious times and they require serious actions. Everyone needs to take this situation seriously.

For the vast majority of you who have already been complying with these regulations, I want to thank you for doing your part.

You may feel like you're not doing much but the fact is your actions are making a very big impact and are protecting others, not only by helping to flatten the curve but also by setting an example for your friends, families and neighbours.

I also want to recognize the many individuals, non-profit groups, service clubs and businesses that have gone above and beyond by helping those in need during this difficult time. There are countless examples of our residents and businesses rising to the occasion.

Now is the time for all of the people of Fort Erie to take action whenever possible

I'm asking you to check in on each other with a phone call, email or video chat. Offer to help friends, family and loved ones with groceries and medication if you have to make the trip anyway.

If you have elderly or vulnerable family members or neighbours, do what you can to make sure they don't have to leave their home. This is the time to be a good neighbour.

And finally, if you have the means, consider making financial donations to your local food banks or one of the organizations helping others in need.

For frequent status updates on the situation, I encourage you to check the Town of Fort Erie web site at www.forterie.ca and subscribe to the Town's newsletter.

In closing, I want to emphasize that...

We are all in this together. We all must continue to do our part.

We will get through this and we will be stronger for it.

Stay home. Stay Safe.