



# PUBLIC NOTICE

## COVID-19 UPDATE

### TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR

MARCH 18, 2020

The Township of O'Connor is actively monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and will be in continuous communication to ensure that the community is provided with appropriate and timely updates. **Please watch the township website at [www.oconnortownship.ca](http://www.oconnortownship.ca) for these updates.** If you have not signed up for the township text messaging service, now would be a good time should you wish to receive emergency notifications (see website for instructions).

Given the latest report from the Government of Ontario, the **O'Connor Community Centre will be closed until further notice.**

The Township office will remain open during regular business hours, however we ask that residents not come into the office and call ahead for information at 476-1451. For the sake of resident and staff health, we ask that all correspondence be delivered via e-mail or postal service and all payments be done via telephone, online banking or cheques mailed through the postal service or dropped through the mail slot at the township office at 330 Highway 595. **For any services that cannot be provided over the phone or e-mail, please call ahead to make an appointment.**

The Township will continue to maintain all essential services.

The Disposal Site will continue to maintain regular hours, however we ask that residents simply drop their garbage off and **avoid social interactions** while there.

As of April 1st, fire permits will be needed for any burning with the township. Please watch the township website for updates on how to obtain a fire permit at that time or call the township office during regular business hours.

We want to assure the public that information from the Provincial Government is a reliable source, and the supply chain for food and resources are flowing and not cut off. It is not necessary to overstock on items such as food, toilet paper and fuel. As residents of Ontario and our community, we have a role to play in purchasing responsibility to ensure everyone has access to necessities.

We ask all residents to follow the recommendations of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Government of Canada, Government of Ontario and the World Health Organization (see websites on reverse side).

Stay home, stay safe, stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Lorna Buob, Clerk-Treasurer

See reverse side for COVID-19 updates.



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#### Ontario Enacts Declaration of Emergency to Protect the Public

On March 17th, 2020, the Government of Ontario announced that it is taking decisive action by making an order declaring an emergency under s 7.0.1 (1) the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. In doing so, Ontario is using every power possible to continue to protect the health and safety of all individuals and families.

"We are facing an unprecedented time in our history," said Premier Ford. "This is a decision that was not made lightly. COVID-19 constitutes a danger of major proportions. We are taking this extraordinary measure because we must offer our full support and every power possible to help our health care sector fight the spread of COVID-19. The health and wellbeing of every Ontarian must be our number one priority."

As a result of this declaration and its associated orders, the following establishments are legally required to close immediately:

- All facilities providing indoor recreational programs
- All public libraries
- All private schools as defined in the *Education Act*
- All licensed child care centres
- Concert venues
- All bars and restaurants, except to the extent that such facilities provide takeout food and delivery
- All theatres including those offering live performances of music, dance, and other art forms, as well as cinemas that show movies

The Township of O'Connor staff rely only on credible sources to provide the most accurate information and resources to the public. These sources include;

- Province of Ontario - [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus)
- Federal Government - [www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca)
- World Health Organization - [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)
- Public Health Agency of Canada - [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca)
- Thunder Bay District Health Unit - [www.tbdhu.com](http://www.tbdhu.com)

There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses. Take these everyday steps to reduce exposure to the virus and protect your health:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water thoroughly 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
- Stay home if you are sick
- Practice social distancing as much as possible

Visit [Ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://Ontario.ca/coronavirus) to use their self screening tool should you suspect that you have symptoms of COVID-19.

**Suspected cases must be reported immediately by phone to the Thunder Bay District Health Unit at (807) 625-8318 or toll-free 1-888-294-6630, ext. 8318 (Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm). After hours and on weekends/holidays call Thunder Bay Answering Service at (807) 624-1280.**

See reverse side for Township operational services.