

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:  
COVID-19 update – April 17, 2020

Today's update from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit shows that of the 50 cases of COVID-19 that have been confirmed in BWG, 9 people have recovered, 4 have passed away, 12 are self-isolating at home, 2 remain in hospital, and 23 are in isolation at Bradford Valley Care Community. I hope that in the coming weeks, we will see the curve of new infections begin to flatten and a significant increase in the number of recoveries.

The Health Unit's video updates are now taking place only three times a week, as life in a pandemic becomes the 'new normal'. I will continue to provide updates several times a week when I have information to share, so if there are topics you would like me to address or questions you think should be answered here, please reach out to me at [rkeffer@townofbwg.com](mailto:rkeffer@townofbwg.com).

Today, we held our first virtual town hall meeting for Town of BWG staff. It was an important opportunity to make sure that all employees are up to date on the latest information, and to ensure they know how much they are appreciated by me and my fellow council members.

I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Town staff, who continue to provide important services to this community. First, thank you to those on the front lines providing essential services, including Fire & Emergency, By-law Enforcement, Water Services, Wastewater Services, Transportation and Parks & Properties.

Less visible but just as important are the Building Inspectors, Planners and Engineers who are enabling critical construction and development to proceed and making sure other projects are set to go when they are permitted; Facilities Operators who are ensuring our facilities are in good repair for when we can reopen; Leisure and Library staff who are finding creative ways of providing programming to the public; Finance staff who are helping residents access relief programs and helping staff reconfigure budgets; Clerks and Corporate Services staff who are keeping Council and administration operating; Human Resources staff who are supporting employees through a challenging time; Communications staff who are keeping you informed; and Economic Development staff who are supporting businesses that may be struggling. People in all departments are now working from home, and I want to thank our IT staff for making it possible for them to answer phones and provide assistance from wherever they are, and for enabling us to adapt to a virtual workplace.

Finally, I want to thank our partners including South Simcoe Police Service, Simcoe County Paramedics, and all of the taxi and transit operators providing BWG Transit service. You are needed and appreciated.

Best,  
Rob Keffer