

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:
COVID-19 update - March 25

My message today is to implore you to please comply with the direction of health authorities and governments, as the number of cases of COVID-19 in Simcoe County continues to rise.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit reported today that there are 20 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Simcoe County including 6 hospitalizations and 2 deaths. Only 15 of these cases can be linked to travel or close contact with a known patient, while it is not known where the other five patients were exposed to the virus.

The message from the Health Unit is this:

“This makes it even more important that people protect themselves and others by staying home and assuming that you and everyone around you may be carrying the virus. If we all do this, as well as continue to maintain physical distance of 2 metres from others and wash our hands frequently, we will be putting less people at risk and can flatten the curve.

Anyone who has new cold-like/respiratory symptoms (regardless of travel history) and has not been tested for COVID-19 is to self-isolate at home for 14 days, or until their symptoms have resolved, whichever is longer.”

In BWG, we have closed playground structures and may take further action as necessary to prohibit people from congregating. I can't stress this enough – these actions have been taken for your protection, so please do not remove the caution tape or disregard the closures. Our By-law Enforcement staff will be patrolling these areas, but with the number of playgrounds in town, your voluntary compliance is critical.

The federal government's mandatory 14-day quarantine for anyone returning home from international travel goes into effect at midnight tonight. We are waiting for direction on how this will be enforced, but anticipate complaints will be handled by the police. Police are likewise overloaded at this time, so your voluntary compliance is absolutely essential.

I know that it's difficult being stuck at home, but at this time Canadians are still able to leave their homes for the most important things like obtaining food or working in essential services. You can still go outside for a walk as long as you maintain physical distancing of two metres. These guidelines have been provided to protect you, and ignoring them or skirting them by reducing two metres to one, or making frequent trips to the store just to get out of the house, only increases the risk to you, your family and everyone in our community.

Watch our Facebook page tomorrow starting at 7 pm for live updates on the Special Council meeting on relief measures, or see the video on our YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/33NhTZC>

Thank you for staying in touch with us and for helping us to flatten the curve of this virus.

Best,
Rob Keffer