

VILLAGE OF POINT EDWARD COVID-19 UPDATE: Mayor's Message, June 16, 2020



The Village of Point Edward's response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve based on orders issued by the provincial and federal government and the latest information from Lambton Public Health. Please monitor the [Village's website](#) and Facebook Page for updated information as things are changing quickly. Your safety and security remains our top priority.

Lambton County Permitted to Progress to Stage 2 on Friday, June 19

The Ontario government has announced that Lambton County is one of the additional regions that will progress to [Stage 2 of the province's reopening framework](#) on Friday, June 19 at 12:01 a.m. Regions that have been permitted to move into Stage 2 have demonstrated positive trends of key public health indicators at the local level, including lower transmission of COVID-19, sufficient hospital health system capacity, local public health capacity to assist with rapid case and contact management, and a significant increase in testing provincially.

All Ontarians must continue to follow public health advice, including practicing physical distancing, wearing a face covering if physical distancing is a challenge, washing hands frequently and thoroughly, and avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth. If you think you have COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, get tested.

Social Circles vs. Social Gatherings

People throughout Ontario are being encouraged to establish a social "circle" of no more than 10 people who can interact and come into close contact with one another without physical distancing. The rules for social circles are different from the recent expansion of social gatherings from five to 10 people.

Social circles will enable Ontarians to enjoy close contact with members of their circle. This could include hugging, carpooling, enjoying a patio and sharing a meal without staying two metres apart. Ontarians should avoid close-contact activities with anyone outside of their circle if they are unable to maintain physical distancing. Social circles will also bring back supports from people outside of their household who can now help with children, seniors or those in need.

Social gatherings can be any 10 people from outside your household, but where physical distancing of at least two metres should be maintained. For example, the expansion of social gatherings enables individuals and families to enjoy the company of others at backyard barbecues and picnics in neighbourhood parks, while respecting physical distancing advice.

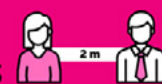
Social circles



- Close contact is allowed (ex: hugs)
- Must always be the same people
- You can belong to only one circle

VS

Social gatherings



- Maintain physical distances (2 metres)
- Can be any group of up to 10 people
- You can gather with different groups of up to 10 people



Establishing a Social Circle

The Ontario government recommends these five steps be followed to create a safe social circle:

1. Start with your current circle: the people you live with or who regularly come into your household;
2. If your current circle is under 10 people, you can add members to your circle, including those from another household, family members or friends;
3. Get agreement from everyone that they will join the circle;
4. Keep your social circle safe. Maintain physical distancing with anyone outside of your circle; and
5. Be true to your circle. No one should be part of more than one circle.

While physical distancing does not need to be practiced between members of the same social circle, other public health advice, including frequent hand washing, should be maintained. Anyone who is ill or feeling sick should immediately limit their contact with anyone in their circle, inform the other members of the circle, self-isolate, and seek testing if they have COVID-19 symptoms. They should also seek testing if they are concerned that they might have been exposed to COVID-19 or be at risk. You can learn more about creating a social circle [here](#).

Canada-U.S. Border to Remain Closed to Non-essential Travel Until July 21

Canada and the United States have once again agreed to keep the border closed to non-essential travel for at least another 30 days to slow the spread of COVID-19. The extension on the existing agreement means that the border restrictions will stay in place until July 21, 2020.

The agreement exempts the flow of trade and commerce, as well as vital health-care workers such as nurses who live and work on opposite sides of the border. Tourists and cross-border visits remain prohibited at this time.

Virtual Canada Day Fireworks Celebration for Lambton County

Tourism Sarnia-Lambton, in partnership with all 11 municipalities in Lambton County, is planning a Virtual Canada Day Celebration that residents can collectively enjoy from a safe distance. The online event will use an augmented reality platform, accessible through **snapt**, to deliver local content and a virtual fireworks experience to commemorate Canada Day right from the comfort of your own backyard, balcony, or living room.



Paint the Town Red & White in Celebration of Canada Day



The Sarnia Canada Day Committee is encouraging the community to proudly display their Canada-themed decor, painting the town red & white for Canada Day. We would love for Point Edward residents to do the same, showcasing our community and Canadian pride and getting into the spirit of celebration!

Cliff Erickson to Perform Benefit Concert Hosted by the Rotary Club of Sarnia

Acclaimed singer-songwriter Cliff Erickson will be performing his popular mix of ballads, soft rock, and anthems in a special online performance hosted by the Rotary Club of Sarnia on **Friday, July 10, from 8–9 p.m.** The event is being held in place of the Club's signature Pancake Breakfast, which can't be held this year to kick off the Mackinac sailboat race because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The concert, which is one of two big fundraisers for the Club this year, will benefit local causes, including Rotary's \$600,000 commitment toward the rebuilding of the therapeutic pool at the Pathways Centre for Children. The price of a ticket is a donation to Rotary. Tickets for the event are available at www.rotarysarnia.com.

COVID-19 Assessments Broadly Available for Sarnia-Lambton Residents

COVID-19 testing is now available to all Sarnia-Lambton residents who would like to be tested, regardless of symptoms. Please note that the test can only tell if you have COVID-19 at the time of the test and will not tell you if you had COVID-19 in the past.

A [list of assessment centres](#), including contact information and hours of operation, can be found on Lambton Public Health's website. Do not delay testing if you have symptoms.

Our diligent adherence to public health measures has helped to flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Let's continue the physical distancing and healthy practices to support the safety and success of the province's framework for reopening.

– Mayor Bev Hand