

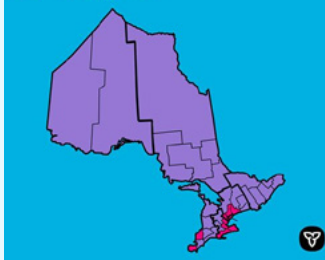
VILLAGE OF POINT EDWARD COVID-19 UPDATE: Mayor's Message, July 16, 2020



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 Not Included in Regions Allowed to Progress to Stage 3

A regional approach for Stage 3



Lambton County is not included in the first group of regions that have been permitted to progress to Stage 3 of the province's framework for reopening on Friday, July 17, 2020. The province will continue to reassess local trends in public health indicators at the beginning of each week to determine if additional public health unit regions can progress to Stage 3. For more details and information on what to expect once we are permitted to move to Stage 3, please see the province's [news release](#).

Current local reporting of COVID-19 cases, outbreaks, and related information is available on [Lambton Public Health's website](#).

Cycling on Sidewalks and Shared Paths: Safety Tips & Requirements

The sidewalks and paths are especially busy right now with many community members out enjoying the sunshine and being active outdoors. Numerous complaints have been made to the Village Office recently regarding cyclists not following proper practices, particularly on the Waterfront Trail. For their own safety, and the safety of pedestrians, cyclists are reminded to familiarize themselves with the required safety equipment and proper practices before heading out for a bike ride. The following information is included in [Cycling Skills: Ontario's Guide to Safe Cycling](#), which is available on the Ministry of Transportation's website.

Ontario law requires that you equip your bike with:

- A bell or horn in good working order.
- A white front light and a red rear light or reflector if you ride between 1/2 hour before sunset and 1/2 hour after sunrise.
- White reflective tape on the front forks and red reflective tape on rear forks.

Please be aware that cycling on sidewalks can be dangerous. Many collisions between cyclists and motor vehicles occur where sidewalks, driveways and parking lot entrance/exits become unexpected intersections.

When riding on shared bike/walking paths, cyclists should:

- Ride at a slow speed.
- Use a bell or horn to signal your presence when approaching pedestrians from behind.
- Be ready to stop and allow pedestrians to go first.
- Stop before every intersection and look all ways for motor vehicles.
- Watch for motor vehicles entering or exiting from driveways/laneways.
- Walk your bike across a crosswalk (it is illegal to ride across a crosswalk).

Ontario Extends Emergency Orders

The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has extended most emergency orders currently in force under s.7.0.2 (4) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) until July 29, 2020. A list of the extended orders is included in the province's [news release](#).

Water Safety Advisories Related to Elevated Water Levels

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has issued a shoreline conditions statement in response to the Great Lakes' ongoing elevated water levels. Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair, and Lake Erie have had record high monthly water levels over the past 4–6 months, contributing to elevated levels along shorelines, connecting channels and at watershed outlets.

River banks are expected to be slippery, with possible minor erosion. Residents are reminded to avoid watercourses and flooded areas due to slippery banks and swift moving water. Children and pets should be kept away from the water.

The City of Sarnia is advising the public to be aware of underwater structures along the shores of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River. Due to the recent dramatic rise in lake levels, many seawalls, piles, and groynes are underwater. Swimmers, boaters, and personal watercraft users are advised to be aware of their surroundings when near shore.

Boating Safety: Operating at a Safe Speed

Transport Canada reminds boaters that they may have to stop or turn suddenly to avoid a collision, so operate at a safe speed. When choosing a safe speed consider:



- The visibility conditions (fog, mist, rain and darkness) and your ability to see ahead
- The wind, water conditions and currents
- The maneuverability of your boat
- The traffic density, types of vessels in the area and their proximity
- The proximity of any navigational hazards (rocks, and tree stumps)
- Be especially careful when operating in areas of restricted visibility, such as entering or exiting a fog bank.

Consider the effects your boat's wake might create while choosing your speed. Your boat's wake can damage other vessels, docks and the shoreline.

Also, consider other users of the waterway such as swimmers, divers and people aboard small vessels that your wake could cause to capsize. You could be held liable for these damages.

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.

Let's continue the physical distancing and healthy practices to support the safety and success of our reopening.

– Mayor Bev Hand