

VILLAGE OF POINT EDWARD
COVID-19 UPDATE:
Mayor's Message, Dec. 22, 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.

Ontario Announces Provincewide Shutdown

The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, is imposing a Provincewide Shutdown **beginning Saturday, December 26, 2020, at 12:01 a.m.** As COVID-19 cases continue to rise at an alarming rate, the Shutdown aims to help stop the trend of high COVID-19 transmission in communities, preserve health system capacity, safeguard vulnerable populations and those who care for them, and save lives. The Shutdown's impacts will be evaluated after 28 days in Southern Ontario and 14 days in Northern Ontario to determine if it is safe to lift any restrictions or if additional time is required.

On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, **all Ontarians are advised to stay home as much as possible with trips outside the home limited to necessities** such as food, medication, medical appointments, or supporting vulnerable community members. Employers in all industries should make every effort to allow employees to work from home.

To support the Government's broader efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19, all publicly funded and private elementary and secondary schools will move to teacher-led remote learning when students return from the winter break on January 4, 2021. Elementary school students in Lambton County are planned to be able to return to in-person learning on January 11, 2021, while local secondary school students will continue learning remotely until January 25, 2021. The province's news release is available in its entirety at news.ontario.ca.

COVID-19 SPREADS EASILY IF GIVEN THE CHANCE

Limit all non-essential social activities.



Day 1



Mary didn't know she was exposed to COVID-19 at a work party.

Day 3



Mary felt well & made plans to see family.

Day 5



Mary went to a holiday gathering and didn't know she was contagious.

Day 7



Mary developed symptoms & tested positive for COVID-19.



Several close contacts to Mary may now be infected.

Public Health and Workplace Safety Measures to be Implemented

The province has highlighted a number of measures that will be implemented during the Provincewide Shutdown to begin Dec. 26, 2020. Measures include, but are not limited to:

- Restricting indoor organized public events and social gatherings, except with members of the same household (the people you live with). Individuals who live alone may consider having exclusive close contact with one other household.
- Prohibiting in-person shopping in most retail settings—curbside pickup and delivery can continue. Discount and big box retailers selling groceries will be limited to 25 per cent capacity for in-store shopping. Supermarkets, grocery stores and similar stores that primarily sell food, as well as pharmacies, will continue to operate at 50 per cent capacity for in-store shopping.
- Restricting indoor access to shopping malls—patrons may only go to a designated indoor pickup area (by appointment only), essential retail stores that are permitted to be open (e.g. pharmacy, grocery store), or, subject to physical distancing and face covering requirements, to the food court for takeout purchases. Shopping malls may also establish outdoor designated pickup areas.
- Prohibiting indoor and outdoor dining. Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments will be permitted to operate by take out, drive-through, and delivery only.

Community Action Required to Slow the Spread of COVID-19

Following a sharp increase in local case numbers—and with the holiday season about to begin—Lambton Public Health (LPH) is urging the community to take action to slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the strain on our health system. Recent contact tracing and investigations indicate transmission continues to be primarily through exposure to close contacts.

In the past week, LPH has determined several connections between formal and informal social gatherings that have resulted in multiple positive COVID cases. Follow these guidelines to help protect our community and prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- **Stay home if you are sick, even with mild symptoms.**
- **Limit non-essential social activities.**
- **If you need to see someone or do something, be safe about it.**
- **Follow public health measures, including using good hand hygiene, practicing physical distancing (at least two metres), and wearing a face mask in public indoor spaces and whenever physical distancing is a challenge.**

If Lambton Public Health contacts you, be honest and understand that isolating close contacts is critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19. Visit [LambtonPublicHealth.ca](https://www.lambtonpublichealth.ca) to learn more about public health's COVID-19 response in Lambton County.

COVID-19 Testing

If you think you have COVID-19 please self-isolate, avoid contact with others and proceed with a testing option. If you are unsure if you have COVID-19 symptoms, take the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#).

Public Assessment Centres may be accessed **by appointment** by anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or are individuals who do not have symptoms but are at high risk for COVID-19 due to close contact with confirmed cases.

COVID-19 testing is available by appointment at select pharmacies only if you are **not showing symptoms (asymptomatic)**. For additional requirements and details of local testing centres, please visit [lambtonpublichealth.ca](https://www.lambtonpublichealth.ca).

Closure of Village Facilities

In accordance with the provincial measures set to begin on Dec. 26, there will be a number of changes to Village operations.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

The Point Edward Municipal Office will be closed to the public, with access by appointment only for essential services. Please call 519-337-3021 prior to visiting to ensure your request can be accommodated. All visitors will be required to pass the COVID-19 screening questions at the window to the right of the front door prior to entering the building.

Tax and water payments can be made online through your bank—contact the office if you need assistance with the account set up—or by cheque, which can be dropped in the mailbox to the left of the office's front door or mailed to 135 Kendall St., Point Edward, N7V 4G6. Arena payments can be paid by cheque, in the same manner as described above.

Phones will continue to be answered during regular office hours (Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.). Please note the office's holiday closures, as marked in your community calendar:

- Closed at 12:00 p.m. on Dec. 24
- Closed Dec. 25
- Closed Dec. 28
- Closed at 12:00 p.m. on Dec. 31
- Closed Jan. 1

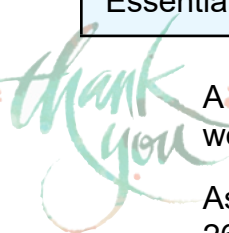
Should a public works or water/wastewater emergency occur outside of regular office hours, please follow the voicemail prompts at (519) 337-3021 to report it.

ARENA & COMMUNITY HALL

The Arena and Community Hall will be closed to the public beginning at 12:01 a.m. on December 26, 2020 when the Provincial Shutdown takes effect. All bookings that fall within the Shutdown period are cancelled.

PUBLIC WORKS, WATER/WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, & FIRE HALL

Essential services will continue. All facilities are closed to the public.



A heartfelt thank you to all our Staff, Residents, and Village Council Members, who have worked through the trials and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020.

As we near the end of 2020 and prepare to move into the Provincial Shutdown on Dec. 26, the uncertainty of this year continues into 2021. Let us be optimistic that the additional steps we are all taking now will mean that the new year will be a better one, as we progress towards a return to what we knew or to a new normal.

Thank you for heeding the message from public health and community leaders to follow the protocols. There is no doubt that this situation has had a huge impact on our lives. There was no play book for navigating this unprecedented time. All the communities of Lambton County stepped up amid the stress and uncertainty to work together and support each other. The ultimate goal was always to strive to protect the health and safety of our residents.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season and looking forward to brighter days in 2021.

–Mayor Bev Hand