



# COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Update

## Media Release

**GEORGINA**

Town of Georgina Communications Division  
communications@georgina.ca



### **For Immediate Release**

March 19, 2020

## **Town of Georgina issues declaration of emergency**

**Georgina, ON** – Mayor Margaret Quirk has issued a declaration of emergency in response to COVID-19 in the Town of Georgina.

“This is an unprecedented global pandemic and our role in helping to manage the spread of COVID-19 is critical. Our Emergency Operations Centre has been activated to respond to this ever changing situation. Town services have been adjusted to ensure we are doing what we can to protect the safety of residents and staff as we continue to deliver essential services to the community,” said Mayor Margaret Quirk. “There is no need to panic, but we do need to take strong action as a community in stopping the transmission of COVID-19. This emergency declaration reinforces the importance of social distancing and self-isolation.”

An emergency declaration aligns the Town with the Province granting the Mayor the authority to take such action as she considers necessary to implement the Town’s emergency plan. It also grants the Town the power to protect volunteer emergency workers.

In addition to declaring an emergency, the following will soon be considered by Council:

- Consideration of property tax deferral
- Waiving penalty and interest charges for April
- Adjustments to due dates for water / sewer billings

### **Cancellation of all Town of Georgina Council and Committee Meetings**

The Council meeting for March 25 will only include a closed session and no public reports. The Special Council on March 31 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled. The Council meeting for April 1 has been cancelled. Council meetings will resume once the Civic Centre is reopened to the public. The Province has passed legislation allowing municipalities the ability to fully conduct Council meetings electronically when faced with local and province-wide emergencies, empowering local governments to respond quickly when in-person meetings cannot be held.

### **Parking**

Overnight parking enforcement and the three-hour time limit on all streets have been suspended but will be in place if there is a snow event. Daytime parking enforcement is still active.

### **Noise By-law allows for 24-hour service delivery**

The Town’s Noise By-law currently meets the requirement to allow all service or delivery trucks, who are providing essential services to continue with their business outside of current daytime hours. This will ensure all essential services and stores will be stocked for our community.

For more information on Georgina related to COVID-19, visit [georgina.ca/COVID-19](https://www.georgina.ca/COVID-19).

-30-

**Media Contact: Tanya Thompson | Communications Manager | Office of the CAO**  
Phone: 905-476-4305, Ext. 2446 | Email: [tathompson@georgina.ca](mailto:tathompson@georgina.ca) | [georgina.ca](https://www.georgina.ca)