



For Immediate Release

January 14, 2021

Municipal Services Update

The Ontario Government issued a [Province Wide Shutdown](#) effective December 26, 2020 until January 23, 2021 which included Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington (KFL&A) Public Health Region. This was to help interrupt or slow current community transmission of COVID-19, reduce mobility and allow our health care and public health systems that are reaching critical limits to recover briefly and catch-up.

On January 12, 2021, the Government of Ontario announced enhanced public health and workplace safety measures aimed at limiting people's mobility and reducing the number of daily contacts with those outside of an immediate household. These enhanced public health and workplace safety measures are in effect for all of Ontario and are anticipated to be in place until at least Thursday, February 11, 2021.

The Government of Ontario's [Enhancing Public Health and Workplace Safety Measures in the Provincewide Shutdown](#) outlines the measures that are aimed at enhancing the current province wide shutdown provisions:

- Provincial declaration of an emergency under the under s. 7.0.1(1) *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA).
- A stay-at-home-order under the EMCPA will be implemented effective January 14, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r21011?search=Rules+for+areas+in+stage+1>
- Exceptions for essential purposes include going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care, for exercise and essential work.
- Proposed amendments to O. Reg 82/20 under the *Reopening Ontario Act* (ROA)
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r21010?search=Rules+for+areas+in+stage+1>
 - Outdoor gathering limited to five people.
 - Businesses permitted to remain open must ensure that employees conduct their work remotely, with limited exceptions.
 - Mask or face covering use in indoor areas of businesses or organizations that are open. Recommendation for mask or face coverings use outdoors when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
 - Shortened hours for non-essential retail (e.g., 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.)
 - Further restrictions on non-essential construction activity.
 - Concert venues, theatres and cinemas are closed, including drive-in and drive-through events. Previously, they were permitted to open for rehearsing or performing a recorded or broadcasted event.

- Enhanced enforcement authorities will be implemented. All provincial offences officers will have the authority to disperse crowds, temporarily close a premise for non-compliance with gathering restrictions and issue tickets for ROA non-compliance by individuals, employers or corporations in retail settings and businesses.
- The return to in-person learning for KFL&A schools will be determined by January 20, 2021. Childcare centres for non-school-aged children will remain open. Emergency childcare will continue in areas subject to school closures. Both schools and daycares will implement new health and safety measures.
- The enhanced measures will be in effect until at least February 11, 2021.

The Township of Central Frontenac has adjusted its operations in order to comply with the regulations under the State of Emergency. **Effective January 14, 2021 the following will apply for municipal services;**

- The Municipal office will be closed to the public. Only a limited number of staff will be on site to answer calls. All staff that are able to work from home have been set up to do so.
- The Township will continue to accept inquiries through its website, by telephone or email.
- The drop-box at the front door continues to be available to drop off applications and payments.
- Customers wishing to see an employee must call in advance and book an appointment. All appointments will be booked virtually as no in-person interviews are permitted.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of Township offices has been underway for many weeks and will continue into the future.
- All building permits received by January 12, 2021 will be processed and all new applications will be processed however no inspections will take place until after the provincial emergency has been lifted and we have been authorized to resume.
- All Township indoor facilities such as community halls will remain closed to the public until further notice.
- Our Public Works Department will continue as normal as they are deemed essential service.

- Landfill sites will be open and operating as normal. Garbage bags will be available at all sites as well as at the following retail locations;
 - Godfrey General Store
 - Parham General Store
 - Grays Grocery, Sharbot Lake
 - C4 Country Convenience, Arden

We must work together to maintain the excellent results this region has achieved in combatting the spread of COVID-19. The Township thanks all residents in advance for following these important guidelines when visiting our office.

The Township is committed to balancing community needs with the safety of its residents and employees in its approach to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information regarding the Townships response to COVID-19 please visit www.centralfrontenac.com