



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: April 9, 2020

The Township of Central Frontenac Emergency Management Control Group appeals to everyone, STAY HOME

Sharbot Lake, ON – The Township of Central Frontenac Emergency Management Control Group (EMCG) meet on Thursday April 9, 2020 and the message from the EMCG was clear, STAY HOME!

We recognise that Easter celebrations are a special time for family, friends and yearly traditions however to do our part in trying to manage the spread of COVID-19, we are pleading to everyone to respect the requests from all levels of government and from Public Health, to STAY HOME! Local residents are reminded that if you do need to venture out to plan your trips to the grocery stores, pharmacy etc., to once a week or use the delivery services these businesses are using to assist in the reduction of movement within our community.

We have attached an information bulletin which gives details of our current status in Central Frontenac and recommendations from our agency partners.

Jamie Riddell Community Emergency Management Coordinator cannot stress enough the importance of recognizing the term “Essential”. “Is it Essential for you to leave your home, is it Essential to travel to check and/or stay at your cottage for the weekend. If your answer is “no”, then STAY HOME!”

For ongoing COVID-19 updates and ways to best protect you and your family visit www.Kflaph.ca/Coronavirus or www.Ontario.ca/coronavirus.

For more information contact the township office at 613-279-2935 and/or check our website www.centralfrontenac.com .

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Emergency Declaration

Central Frontenac declared a State of Emergency effective March 27, 2020.

Campgrounds (Trailer Parks)

Seasonal Trailer Parks and recreational campgrounds are not listed as an essential businesses and are required to be closed. For Ontarians whose only Canadian residence is at one of these seasonal trailer parks or campgrounds, they are permitted to continue their occupancy and complete their mandatory self-isolation, subject to the property owner's approval. All campgrounds will be contacted by KFL&A Public Health.

Cottages

We are asking residents to avoid travel to secondary dwellings such as cottages, trailers, vacant land and hunting camps for recreational purposes until further notice.

Dr. Kieran Moore, the Medical Officer of Health for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Public Health is lending his support to local Municipalities to **temporarily** restrict access to seasonal dwellings and properties as part of the local State of Emergency Declaration. Seasonal dwellings can include cottages, trailers, rental properties and hunt camps.

The rationale for extending this directive to include **temporary** restrictions on accessing seasonal dwellings and properties is related to the need to re-enforce the importance of physical distancing. It appears that seasonal dwellings are being accessed more and more frequently by seasonal and non-seasonal residents. This includes the practice of short-term renting of seasonal properties to members of the public. This practice has the unintended consequences of spreading COVID-19 in our rural communities and exhausting local resources, including healthcare.

This direction is further endorsed by Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer who warns "Urban dwellers should avoid heading to rural properties, as these places have less capacity to manage COVID-19."

Boat Launches

Boat Launches in Central Frontenac remain open at this time for essential use only. Please practice social distancing at a minimum of 2 meters (6 feet) at all times and no more than 5 people at the boat launch at once.

Treasury Department Tax Payments:

April interest has not been charged & May interest will not be charged.

1/4ly Pre-Authorized Payment (PAP) for April will be spread between the 2 Final billing installments (normally June & September but will likely be July & October), only if asked by owners.

Mthly PAP = Take April & May payments & spread over June to September, if requested re the letter that went out to owners.

School Board payments are deferred by 90 days. June installment are due in September, September is due in December along with the normal December pymt. Staff are continuing to work with the ratepayers.

Other items under consideration: Deferring starting tax sale proceedings that would normally start in 2020, move the starting date to 2021 giving us time to work with people. Also, Creating a "COVID-19" pap plan and extend it to December.

Waste Facilities

Waste sites remain open following the regularly scheduled hours and have protocols in place for safe dumping.

Fire Ban

A fire ban has been issued in response to the COVID-19 crisis and will assist our Emergency Services by not exhausting our Fire Fighters and resources or putting them at unnecessary risk. The ban is to reduce the potential of a large grass or brush fire which may place properties at high risk of loss and be dangerous to firefighters and residents. A small grass fire can rapidly change to a major fire in a matter of seconds. We encourage all residents to comply with the fire ban and help keep our municipality safe.

The province issued a Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) which includes Central Frontenac. Fire Complaints that are not in compliance with the municipal by-law and the Forest Fire Prevention Act will be enforced through applicable regulations.

Building Department

In accordance with the Provincial Regulation made under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, effective Saturday April 04, 2020 at 11:59 pm, the Township of Central Frontenac will not be inspecting any construction projects that are not deemed essential by the Provincial Order. All non-essential construction projects are required to cease construction.

Construction projects deemed essential in sections 20 and 27 to 31 of the Emergency Order that relate to the following may continue:

Maintenance

20. Maintenance, repair and property management services strictly necessary to manage and maintain the safety, security, sanitation and essential operation of institutional, commercial, industrial and residential properties and buildings.

Construction

27. Construction projects and services associated with the healthcare sector, including new facilities, expansions, renovations and conversion of spaces that could be repurposed for health care space.
28. Construction projects and services required to ensure safe and reliable operations of, or to provide new capacity in, critical provincial infrastructure, including transit, transportation, energy and justice sectors beyond the day-to-day maintenance.
29. Critical industrial construction activities required for,
 - i. the maintenance and operations of petrochemical plants and refineries,
 - ii. significant industrial petrochemical projects where preliminary work has already commenced,
 - iii. industrial construction and modifications to existing industrial structures limited solely to work necessary for the production, maintenance, and/or enhancement of Personal Protective Equipment, medical devices (such as ventilators), and other identified products directly related to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.
30. Residential construction projects where,

- i. footing permit has been granted for single family, semi-detached and townhomes;
- ii. an above grade structural permit has been granted for condominiums, mixed use and other buildings, or
- iii. the project involves renovations to residential properties and construction work was started before April 4, 2020.

31. Construction and maintenance activities necessary to temporarily close construction sites that have paused or are not active and to ensure ongoing public safety.

Inspections:

1. Inspections will only be carried out on construction deemed essential by the provincial order.
2. Pursuant to section 30, inspections for residential construction will continue where building permits have been issued by April 4, 2020 for:
 - a. Construction of single family, semi-detached, townhomes, condominiums, mixed use and other buildings, and
 - b. Alterations to residential properties where construction work started before April 4th.
3. Inspections will continue to be performed for approved sites that are unoccupied with appropriate physical distancing.

Presently, Building permit review and issuance remain available at this time. The provincial regulation orders the closure of all places of non-essential business and that all construction cease and not proceed, except for businesses listed as essential.

It is the owner's responsibility to comply with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act until such time as the order is lifted. Please ensure that you review the list of essential construction and/or seek legal opinion before proceeding with any construction works.

Recreational Facilities

All outdoor amenities, such as Ball Fields, Courts, Parks/Playgrounds, and Beaches as well as Libraries, and Community Halls are closed at this time.