



March 23, 2020

### **Statement from the Mayor and Council RE: Local response to COVID-19**

As of today Haldimand & Norfolk has yet to have any COVID-19 confirmed cases. We have many in self isolation and while that is good news for all of us, there are cases popping up around us on a daily basis. I congratulate the residents for their diligence and doing their part to protect themselves and also those around them. I am inspired by the leadership and the care and generosity of the people of Haldimand County.

Like many of you, I have a family with kids of all ages and parents all living in the community. I also have some of the best friends a person could ask for. The threat is very real and very concerning. I cannot stress enough the role you play in protecting my family and my friends, the same role I play for yours, and together it our responsibility, it is our duty to ensure that we are all doing the required part to help us all succeed and get to the other side of this.

While we continue to close centres, parks and public gathering places, we cannot deploy our already stretched front line emergency services to police the behaviour of the few. I am asking those to take the expected precautions. If you do not it will be your family member, or your close friend that is first inflicted with the virus.

I have seen kids playing in the parks and having fun with each other, all very normal except for today. As parents I know the challenges to manage your young ones, but you must not allow any physical contact whatsoever. We have closed the playground equipment and ask that you respect that this equipment is not sanitized and can carry the virus.

Social distancing is no longer just a buzz word, it is a way of life, our new way of life, please respect the space between people and when you see the potential of being in a situation of such, do your best to put separation amongst yourselves.

Shopping is not a hobby or day out for us, but a necessary requirement to obtain the basic needs we all require. Work with your neighbours, your families, your friends, when going to minimize the who is going and how many times you go. Please only buy what is needed and allow others to obtain their required needs as well.

Today our senior management and the health department will discuss within our emergency operations protocols to review those to date and suggest possibly more for tomorrow. Please continue to follow



the County website for new updates to emergency protocols as we implement them.

Folks, I implore you all to take the small steps needed to help tackle this very large issue. All of us working together will conquer this and while we ask our front line services to lead the way, I ask you all take some of that leadership as well.

Lastly, all of those that are showing up to work, from the food shelves, to filling prescriptions, on behalf of the residents of Haldimand County, thank you so much for your efforts.

Mayor Ken Hewitt

Haldimand County Council

Stewart Patterson

John Metcalfe

Dan Lawrence

Tony Dalimonte

Rob Shirton

Bernie Corbett