



March 27, 2020

### **Statement from the Mayor and Council RE: first reported case of COVID-19**

As you probably already have heard, our H-N health Unit has had its first reported case in Norfolk yesterday. While we are not surprised, it does bring the reality and the seriousness of the situation closer to home.

People have asked me, “where”? “We need to know so we can change our behaviours”. My comment back to them is that we should be behaving like it already is next door with your neighbour. It should not matter what town is hit first, we should all be following the very strict rules that are set out for us and as mentioned so many times, do it for your friends and family, don’t be selfish.

On that note, I am still getting reports of kids on the park playgrounds, or the local skate parks. Those are not tourists, they are your kids who live here and I do not blame them as much as I blame the parents who are shirking their duties and risking the rest of us who are following the rules. My advice to you is to take some responsibility of your family and be a parent. It truly angers me when I see that there are people out there that think it is our duty to police bad or stupid behaviour, it is your duty to be a parent, and never more than now.

I recognize it is not easy, we are all living it and no one can say someone else has it easier. We are all in this together, and we all have our own individual issues to manage. I cannot stress the importance to stay away from those parks.

I have been told of stores who are not following the appropriate procedures in terms of social distancing and not managing the flow of customers. While we can only report them to the health department, the onus and responsibility rests with the store owner or manager and they are risking their staff and the public, if you see such behaviour, demand more from them, it is their role to all of us and once again should not require our police or health department to babysit.

If you are hiring migrant workers for your farm, we have put in place a processes for bringing them in and isolating them. Please follow below.

As of March 24th (effective Immediately), a section of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* has been issued by the Medical Officer of Health of the Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit to all employers of seasonal (migrant farm workers) in Haldimand and Norfolk Counties. This order has been issued as there is a potential for transmission of the COVID-19 virus.



PLEASE READ the attached press release carefully, as it details specific actions that must be taken. ALL Employers of Seasonal Workers (Migrant Farm Workers ) in Haldimand and Norfolk Counties are hereby ordered to follow these rules.

FAILURE to comply with this Order is an offence for which you may be liable, conviction, to a fine of not more than \$5,000 for every day or part of each day on which the offence occurs or continues.

PLEASE SHARE with your networks, memberships or anyone you know who may be affected by this order. It is critical we get this message circulated to ensure the safety and well- being of all involved, and to ensure we are following the Medical Officer of Health's direction.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. I have included the contact information for the Health Unit below, if you have any questions or concerns about the order, please contact them directly.

***Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit***

Phone: 519-426-6128

Website: <https://hnhu.org/>

<https://hnhu.org/.../covid-19-resources-for-farmers-and-farm.../>

We are looking for anyone who is a RPN or RN (even if they just finished school) – please contact either by email or by phone at 905-318-5932 Ext 6116.

If you would like to volunteer, please follow the link below:

<https://hnhu.org/covidvolunteers/>

As we approach the weekend, I suspect that we will not be any different with respect to the increasing numbers across the country, what you are doing today and this past couple of weeks will become evident in the next 2 weeks and our diligence will be our reward.

Stay safe,

Ken Hewitt