



March 29, 2020

### **Statement from the Mayor and Council RE: COVID-19 situation**

Confirmed Cases in Haldimand-Norfolk: 23

Deaths in Haldimand-Norfolk: 1

Six Nations has closed their streets to visitors to their territory. I have spoken to the Chief and he has reassured me that for those of you that require services such as medical or work on the reserve will be allowed access to enter through their checkpoints. It's not about whether we agree or disagree, many opinions I am sure are out there. It is their choice and as leaders of the territory it's what they believe is best for their people. My focus is Haldimand and what we can do to protect our residents.

While there are still some dumb people standing in lines and going to these unregulated smoke shacks, risking themselves and their families, we continue to urge you to stay away from any and all situations where you cannot practice social distancing.

The numbers are starting to come in across the country from the first couple of weeks of the pandemic and as expected they are still climbing. Most of these results are prior to the stringent steps you all have taken in the last couple of weeks and so short of the spike we may see from the last of the travellers getting through the tests. It is our hope that we start to see the numbers decline in the next couple of weeks. The potential for not flattening that curve and turning it around is very real and still very dangerous.

Every decision you make, even the little ones are so important to our collective success. Stop with the garage parties, say no to your teenagers asking to see friends, play dates with your 7 year old, while it's so much easier, don't do it.

We do not have to look far but just south of the border, and you can see what pretending it is not a big deal looks like, you can see what sticking your head in the sand looks like. They suggest putting patrols up on the border, I say do it but turn the other way cause who would want to go to the US from Canada right now in the middle of their mess.

I applaud everyone who is talking sense and making sense, I applaud everyone who is setting the right examples for all of us to follow. Those that want to go against the grain, you will soon stick out like a sore thumb and society and your local community will judge you accordingly.



Our front line services are absolutely phenomenal, they have endured more in this past few weeks than most of us would see in a lifetime. The hours these people have put in is simply unbelievable, and they are running short on workers. As is everywhere, front line people as a result of transmissions are in isolation and we are rotating through people as best as we can.

I think of these people and instead of thanking them, do the best thing you can for them and that is follow the simple rules that will make a huge difference. They will appreciate that in so many more ways. They can return home to their families, and be safe as we all are.

Mayor Ken Hewitt