

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Township of Ramara announces further Service impacts

Ramara/April 18, 2021 - As a result of the rapid increase in transmission rates of COVID-19 and its variants, the Province announced on Friday, April 16th, new strengthening measures that include extending the emergency declaration by an additional two weeks, implementing new restrictions and enhancing enforcement.

As of 12:01 a.m. on April 17th, the new restrictions will apply province-wide:

- Outdoor gatherings will be strictly limited to members of the same household, only, or with one other household if that individual lives alone.
- In-person shopping at stores that primarily sell food and pharmaceutical goods, grocery, and "big box" stores will be restricted to 25% occupancy.
- All non-essential workplaces in the construction sector will be closed (e.g., shopping malls, hotels and office towers).
- All outdoor amenities will be closed (e.g. soccer fields, basketball courts and other multi-use fields).

As always and particularly during this challenging time, the health and safety of our community and staff is of utmost importance. Moving into these enhanced restrictions includes a number of closures and restrictions for the Township's municipal services that will begin on Monday, April 19th, 2021. These include:

- Closure of the Township Administration Building and all buildings to the public. Residents are asked to call in to speak with staff and access municipal services online where available at ramara.ca/onlineservices.
- Closure of all outdoor recreation amenities which include playgrounds, soccer fields, and basketball courts.
- Ramara Public Library will continue to be closed to the public and offer virtual programming and curbside pickup.
- Ramara Recreation department will continue to provide all virtual programming, but all curbside programming is cancelled.
- The building and planning department will continue to accept all building and planning applications electronically or by paper/hard copy and can be dropped off in the outside drop box.
- All non-residential building permit applications will be examined on a case-by-case basis, so please call the building department prior to submission.
- All building inspections will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays with strict health and safety measures in place.
- Short-Term Rental Accommodations are strictly prohibited, unless it is rented to a person in need. Only those Short-Term Rental Accommodation locations that have a valid licence can rent to those in need. If a Short-Term Rental Accommodation does not have a licence, they cannot be open.
- Locally, our By-law Enforcement Team will be responding to complaints as well as proactively enforcing all the applicable regulations and Provincial orders throughout the Township.

- All Council and Committee meetings will continue virtually and can be accessed by visiting the Township's website at www.ramara.ca.

The Township is dedicated to providing the same level of services residents have come to expect by providing more online services and being available to residents by email, phone and/or video. Residents can contact staff Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Residents are asked to leave a message and staff will respond within two business days, or otherwise noted. For more information, please visit our website at www.ramara.ca.

The Township also wants to remind the community that we all have a role in reducing the spread of COVID-19 that goes beyond following provincial restrictions. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit advises everyone to keep safe and to do the following:

- The fewer people you have contact with the lower the risk of exposure to COVID-19.
- Remember that just because you know someone, it does not reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19.
- Trips outside of the home should only be for essential reasons (work, school, groceries/pharmacy, health care, assisting vulnerable individuals, or exercise and physical activity).
- Do not visit any other households or allow visitors in their homes. If you live alone, you can have close contact with only one other household.
- Everyone should avoid social gatherings.
- Work remotely, where possible.

Vaccination Reminder

The Health Unit continues to roll out vaccinations to more residents and age groups across Simcoe County. For details and to schedule a vaccination as an eligible resident, visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>. For current SMDHU guidance, go to smdhu.org/.

The Township of Ramara is working diligently to keep residents informed during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on how services are impacted, please visit ramara.ca/covid-19. For health-related information, please go to smdhu.org, or call the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit directly.

-30-

Media Contacts

Ashley Watson

Manager of Communications, Business and Community Engagement

Township of Ramara

705-484-5374 ext. 322

awatson@ramara.ca