



Media Release

Town of Midland announces more service level impacts

Thursday, March 19, 2020 – In response to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of Midland has announced more impacts and changes to service levels.

Mid-Pen Transit Service

The Mid-Pen Transit Service shut down has been extended through the weekend out of extreme precaution. An employee working out of our Operations Centre reported that they have been in contact with someone (not a Town employee) who was directed to self-isolate on Thursday, March 18, though it's important to note that neither person has tested positive for COVID-19. Since the buses are stored at the Operations Centre, steps are being taken to disinfect them over the next several days and Operations staff will not be reporting to the Ops Centre until Monday as further precaution. Transit is expected to resume on Monday morning as scheduled. Residents are encouraged to watch the Town's social media feeds for updates if this changes.

Parking Enforcement

Effective immediately, all time-limited, parking meter and overnight enforcement will be suspended until May 29, 2020. However, all Fire routes, hydrants, intersections, snow removal and safety-related infractions will continue to be enforced.

Water & Wastewater Services

The Water & Wastewater Treatment Centre (WWTC) has implemented Level 1 of the Water Wastewater Services COVID-19 Response Action Plan. This means that the WWTC is suspending activities that lead to face-to-face interaction with the public:

- No visitors to 200 Bay St., or to remote water/wastewater facilities.
- Any necessary face-to-face interaction with the public must be done wearing nitrile gloves, eye protection and N95 masks/respirators.
- Gates to be closed.
- No new water meter installations. Arrangements can be made for home builders and faulty water meters.
- Water leaks or wastewater collection issues causing health concerns or property damage will be responded to.
- Septage receiving will continue. Driver are not entering buildings.
- No signatures for parcel drop offs.

These changes will not impact the treatment/disinfection of the Town's water supply. Our disinfection measures meets/exceeds the requirements from the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks as well as the [World Health Organization's Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Waste Management – COVID-19 Technical Briefing document](#).

"As this situation continues to evolve, the Town needs to prioritize our staffing efforts," said Mayor Stewart Strathearn. "By suspending aspects of our parking enforcement and reducing public interaction/contact by our Water/Wastewater staff, we're not only keeping the health and safety of our



staff and residents in mind, we're also practicing social distancing. Something we all need to embrace and practice."

Council has also advised staff to report back at the next Council meeting on April 1 with updates and recommendations on adjusting tax and utility payment due dates base on the financial and economic conditions existing at that time, both locally and more broadly as the COVID-19 situation evolves.

The Town strongly encourages residents to not spread rumours and information on social media that hasn't been 100% confirmed by the organization in question, or by various government agencies. Spreading information before it's been confirmed causes added stress and panic, which many people are already feeling during this pandemic. Let's look out for each other. We are in this together!

For more information on the state of COVID-19 in our area, please contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit their website at [simcoemuskokahealth.org](https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).



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