



## Media Release

### Town of Midland supports COVID-19 restrictions, details on service impacts

January 14, 2021 – The Town of Midland continues to keep the health and safety of residents and staff in mind as we continue to work through the COVID-19 pandemic. With the recent announcement by the Ontario Government of tighter lockdown restrictions and stay at home orders, the Town is announcing service changes in support of these new restrictions.

“Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made every effort to ensure the safety of our staff and our residents are top of mind,” said Mayor Stewart Strathearn. “With vaccines being rolled out, this is not the time to put our guard down. These new restrictions are designed to help limit our contact with others and we encourage all residents to continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask when out in public, and remember that we are all in this together.”

#### Services Update

##### Essential Services

Essential services such as Water/Wastewater, Fire, Transit and Roads/Parks will continue under their strict protocols and the Fire Hall will be closed to the public. The OPP ask that residents not enter their buildings without an appointment. Should you need to report a crime, they encourage residents to use their online reporting tool at [opp.ca/reporting](http://opp.ca/reporting). The Municipal Office will continue to operate with only necessary staff at the facility, with staff working from home when not in the office. Residents are encouraged to make payments at their banks or via electronic payments for tax bills, water/wastewater bills and parking tickets, alternatively the drop box located at the Third Street entrance can be used to drop off or send payments by regular mail.

##### Municipal Office Services

The Municipal Office will continue to offer by-appointment only service for the following services:

- Building & Planning applications;(As per the restrictions. Please refer to details enclosed)
- Marriage Licenses (Midland residents Only);
- Death Certificates & Burial Permits (contact the Clerk for alternate options);
- Lottery Licenses;
- Taxi Driver Licenses;
- Freedom of Information Requests;
- Encroachment Agreements (by phone or email);
- Tax Certificates; and
- Mid-Pen Transit Smartcard sales\*.

For details on how to book an appointment, please visit [Midland.ca/COVID-19](http://Midland.ca/COVID-19). Please do not visit the office unless you have arranged a pre-booked appointment. Only those with pre-booked appointments will be permitted to enter the building.

##### North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre (NSSRC)

The ice pads and gym facility at the NSSRC are currently closed to the public.

The centre remains open for:

- Tenants allowed to operate under the restriction orders; and
- Mid-Pen Transit Smartcard sales\*.

\*SmartCards can be reloaded online using our [Mid-Pen Transit Service Online Portal](http://Mid-Pen Transit Service Online Portal).



### **Suspended Services**

The following services are suspended and will not be offered at the Municipal Office until further notice:

- Dog Tags;
- Fire Permits;
- Meter Bags;
- Hawker/Peddler/Refreshment vehicle licenses;
- Seasonal boat slip permits; and
- Curb Cuts for driveways.

### **Building & Planning Applications**

Applications will be accepted and processed; however new permits will only be issued for construction projects allowed within the restriction orders. Building Inspectors will continue to provide mandatory construction inspections. While our Inspectors will strive to meet our processing and response times, we are unable to guarantee that normal processing and inspection timelines can be met. Inspections are conducted Monday to Friday during normal business hours.

At the Building Inspectors individual discretion, they may not enter occupied areas of buildings under construction including personal dwellings or occupied areas of industrial, commercial, multi-residential or institutional buildings. Building staff will ask you to answer brief non-intrusive screening questions related to the COVID-19 health risks, and Inspectors will practice social distancing. Please understand this is for the protection and peace of mind of our staff who will be serving you and other members of the public.

Building inspections are to be booked through the Town's inspection booking phone line (705-526-4275, ext. 2248). Building Permit applications, including drawings, may be submitted by email to [building@midland.ca](mailto:building@midland.ca). Permit applications and cheques may be dropped off at Town Hall in our drop off box at the Third Street entrance. The Town will also accept applications by prior arrangements which are to be made through email at [building@midland.ca](mailto:building@midland.ca); you will be provided with a time and location for the drop off.

The Town of Midland will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and provide updates on our website at [Midland.ca/COVID-19](https://www.midland.ca/COVID-19), and we encourage residents to follow our social media channels for updates as well, [@MidlandON](https://twitter.com/MidlandON) on Twitter, and [@townofmidland](https://www.facebook.com/townofmidland) on Facebook.

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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