



Update – August 21, 2020

1) COVID-19 Recovery Committee update

- The CRC continues to meet with the SLT and Customer Service Committee in preparation for the reopening of Town facilities;
- The CRC is working with the Operations Department and Communications to update signage for park washrooms, entrance to parks, the dog park, sport signs etc...;
- IT is working on an SOP for returning equipment and all employees will be provided with a final version of this SOP;
- Update on supplies/equipment/moves are as follows:
 - Facilities have upgraded filters on their HVAC systems to assist with air quality;
 - The mirrors for the Municipal Office and Operations will be installed soon;
 - The retractable barriers for the Municipal Office and NSSRC are now in;
 - For those who wear glasses nose clips are now available to help prevent fogging. Please see Kim if you require some;
 - The OMNI-RM station at the Municipal Office has been moved to it's previous location (beside Madelaine's desk);
 - Floor markings will be installed closer to reopening;
 - New accessibility vans with barriers between the passenger and driver are in;
 - The new security FOB readers at the Municipal Office and Operations, for employee to swipe in and out, will take approx. 3 weeks for installation;
 - The locking system for the double doors at the Municipal Office (just past the public washrooms) will take approx. 3 weeks for installation;
- Contractors and Contact Tracing documentation can be found here:
S:\Town of Midland\IP - Protection & Enforcement Services\PO3 - Emergency Planning\COOP\Continuity Plan and Appendices

Please don't hesitate to reach out to the CRC if you have any questions at all! We want to ensure we have helped relieve any concerns people may have.

We appreciate your support and patience as we work through everything. We hope to provide you with a video of the facility once barriers are in and to give you any updates we may have at that time. Stay tuned and stay safe!

2) COVID-19 and Stigma

- Stigma is associated with a lack of knowledge about how COVID-19 spreads, a need to blame someone, fears about disease and death, and gossip that spreads rumors and myths.
- Stigma can also happen after a person has recovered from COVID-19, has been released from home isolation or quarantine or is just being tested.
- Stigma can also make people more likely to hide symptoms or illness, keep them from seeking health care immediately, and prevent individuals from adopting healthy behaviors.
- This means that stigma can make it more difficult to control the spread of an outbreak.

We encourage anyone who is unwell and experiencing any of the COVID symptoms to get tested to protect themselves, their families and co-workers. Please, let's work together to help prevent the COVID Stigma!



3) Ontario Supporting the Safe Reopening of More Spaces at Gyms & Recreation Centres

- The Ontario government is supporting the safe reopening of many sport, fitness and recreation facilities by applying a capacity limit on a per room basis to help more businesses reopen their doors, get more people back to work and promote the return to a healthy and active lifestyle for all Ontarians.
- Beginning August 15, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., these facilities were permitted to have up to 50 patrons for each indoor sport or fitness room, while ensuring physical distancing of at least two metres.
- The revised capacity limits are on a per room basis. They apply to the gymnasiums, health clubs, community centres, multi-purpose facilities, arenas, exercise studios, yoga and dance studios and other fitness facilities that are able to follow the new guidance.

Full media release from the Province: [Capacity limits increased for gyms, recreation centres](#)

4) SMDHU: Supports for parents

- The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is working to ensure timely and complete communications to support parents, educators and school administrators.
- They have created a dedicated [Return to School](#) section on the SMDHU website which will continue to be updated, and will include FAQs, so please check it often.
- The SMDHU has also produced a [letter to parents/guardians](#) to provide this information as well as contact information for their Health Connection phone line where public health staff are available to answer questions and provide information to families. It is available extended hours Mondays through Saturdays.

5) COVID Exhaustion

- COVID exhaustion may have set in quite some time ago and our stress/anxiety exacerbated due to continued change into our daily routines.
- Trying to manage the fear of the unknown compromises our mental health. We need to step back, take a deep breath, know that we all are stretched thin and quite likely all feeling the struggles.
- We need to give ourselves permission to recognize that no matter how strong a human we are, we are still human.
- Please, take time for you this weekend; rest, exercise, eat well, cherish beautiful moments and reflect on all the positive things that are in your life.

If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has it, first self-isolate and then use [Ontario's Self-Assessment Tool](#) to see if you need to seek further care.

Remember to pre-screen daily when entering any Town building.

Any changes within a department will now be provided to Randy to be included in an update and copied to Clerks@midland.ca for tracking.

We are looking for positive news/stories about Town departments and staff to share both internally and externally. Please email flee@midland.ca with details so we can promote the great work everyone is doing!