



Update – July 24, 2020

We are looking to share positive news about staff! If you've had some good news, please email [rfee@midland.ca](mailto:rfee@midland.ca) to include in a future update!

### 1) COVID Recovery Committee Update

- The CRC has completed meetings with Municipal Office staff, have also toured the NSSRC, Operations and the Harbour. Remaining is the Fire Dept. and the WWTC on Monday. The Committee was impressed with the facilities' many safety protocols in place and great signage. The CRC was able to provide some corporate initiatives/ideas/signage/posters to each of the facilities and they were very well received.
- The CRC is now tracking over 95 action items! They have tackled many of the 95 actions items. Some are big and some are small, but all of them are important! In time, they will meet all action items.

The **CRC would like to express their gratitude** for:

- the time each department has provided;
- for recognizing the importance of this Corporate initiative; to ensure all Departments are working together to achieve the same thing;
- for the positive feedback received about the intent and hard work of this Committee; and
- for everyone's commitment to achieve the end result – which is to provide a safe workspace for our work family, while also achieving new and innovative ways to accomplish a 'new way' of doing things.

### 2) Ontario Terminates Emergency Declaration

- The Ontario Government has terminated the Emergency Declaration as of July 24.
- 18 pieces of legislation were passed as the legislature sat for the last time until September 14.
- One of the pieces of legislation was the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020, which comes into effect today, ensuring important measures remain in place to address the threat of COVID-19.

To read the full media release, visit: [Emergency Declaration and Reopening Ontario Act](#)

### 3) Ontario Permits 7 more Health Unit regions to move into Stage 3 as of today

- On Monday, the Ontario government announced that the following public health unit regions can moved into Stage 3:
  - Durham Region;
  - Haldimand-Norfolk;
  - Halton Region;
  - Hamilton;
  - Lambton;
  - Niagara Region; and
  - York Region.
- Peel, Toronto and Windsor-Essex County will remain in Stage 2 for now.

To read the full media release, visit: [More regions moving into Stage 3](#)



#### **4) Simcoe County Public School Board says three models for classes this fall are not without challenges**

- The waiting game continues for parents and students as to what the school year will look like in the fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In late June the province laid out three models for school boards to work through in preparation for the start of classes in September:
  - The continuation of remote learning with more standardization, if school closures are extended, or if some parents choose not to send their child back to school.
  - A plan for regular in-class instruction with heightened health protocols
  - An adapted delivery model, which blends in-class with online learning, which would see students alternating between classroom and online instruction
- “We are preparing all three plans as the province asked us to do,” said Jodi Lloyd, chairperson of the Simcoe County District School Board. “We certainly have not said that one plan won’t work. They are all different and not without challenges. We will problem solve and work through those so are students are educated in the fall, whatever form that will take.”

To read the full Barrie360 article, visit: [Three school models not without challenges](#)

#### **5) Canadian expert optimistic about Oxford vaccine research**

- A potential COVID-19 vaccine developed in England offers some “hope for a change,” said infectious disease expert Dr. Abdu Sharkawy on Monday, but he cautioned that it’s still too early to know how successful the shot could be in stamping out the virus.
- The experimental coronavirus vaccine out of Oxford University is “extremely promising,” said Sharkawy.
- The vaccine candidate effectively produced antibodies that can recognize and kill an infecting organism in people aged 18 to 55, producing a dual immune response that lasted for at least two months after immunization, according to research [published Monday in the journal Lancet](#).
- The vaccine remains in the early trial stages after testing began in April on 1,000 people. The sample size is set to get even larger as the trial expands to patients in Brazil, the United States and South Africa, three of the five nations with the most known COVID-19 infections worldwide. Meanwhile, there are more than 20 vaccines currently in clinical trials around the globe and more than 100 others in earlier stages.

To read the full CTV News article, visit: [Oxford University Vaccine "extremely promising"](#)

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](mailto:Clerks@midland.ca) for tracking.