



Update – July 31, 2020

**Please note: there will be no Top 5 update on August 7. The next one will be August 14.**

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-19 Recovery Committee update

The COVID Recovery Team is still diligently working away behind the scenes to ensure the municipal office is ready for opening in September.

- The CRC just sent out the COVID Recovery Framework to all employees this morning;
- Mirrors were tested in the Municipal Office to ensure they will work in the tight spaces and corners, and more mirrors have been ordered;
- Banners and other signage for the Municipal Office and the NSSRC are in draft and will be heading to the printers soon and will be up and ready by September;
- All facilities received posters and stickers. More stickers will be provided to each facility as needed;
- The floor signage is in and will be installed before September opening;
- The barriers have not arrived yet, but they will be in place before September opening;
- The east side double doors (near the employee washrooms/Aberdare Room) will be locked and opened only by key fob, like the other doors, before September opening;
- Kim Crewson has a great supply stock of PPE, hand sanitizer etc... Please reach out to her if you need any COVID-19 related products or supplies;
- We are in the process of creating a 'one stop shop' for employees in the east side hall in the Municipal Office. This will help reduce hallway traffic, and provide an excellent use of space and convenience for employees. Included will be:
  - East side photocopier
  - Supplies counter
  - Postage machine
  - Mail pick-up
  - Easy drop off for A/P
- IT is hard at work getting quotes, creating SOP's, assisting with temporary moves and working to bring Midland new online services and lots more!

Thanks again for all of your participation and words of encouragement! We are all in this together!

### 2) Ontario Releases Plan for Safe Reopening of Schools in September

- On Thursday the Ontario government is announcing the safe reopening of schools for in-class instruction beginning this September.
- Elementary schools (Kindergarten to Grade 8) will reopen provincially, with in-class instruction five days a week. Secondary schools with lower risk will reopen with a normal daily schedule, five days a week, while most secondary schools will start the school year in an adapted model of part-time attendance with class cohorts of up to 15 students alternating between attending in-person and online. Students from Grade 4-12 and school staff will be required to wear masks.
- Parents will continue to have the option to enroll their children in remote delivery, which respects their fundamental role in making the final determination of whether they feel safe with their children returning to school.

To read the full media release, visit: [Plan for reopening schools in September](#)



### 3) Ontario Permits 2 more Health Unit regions to move into Stage 3 as of today

- On Wednesday, the Ontario government announced that Toronto and Peel Region can move into Stage 3 as of today, Friday, July 31.
- Windsor-Essex County will remain in Stage 2 for now.

To read the full media release, visit: [Toronto & Peel Region move into Stage 3](#)

### 4) National contact tracing app begins beta testing after delay

- A Canadian smartphone app meant to warn users if they've been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 is now in beta testing.
- When it's fully functional, the "COVID Alert" app is supposed to track phones' locations relative to each other without collecting personal data anywhere centrally, using digital identifications unique to each phone.
- Then users can be told if their phones have recently been near the phone of a person who volunteers that they have tested positive for the novel coronavirus.
- In the test phase, the agency says, the app will send false alerts just to make sure the system works.

To read the full Global News article, visit: [Tracing app now in beta testing](#)

### 5) More people calling mental health help line as pandemic drags on

- The Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington says in the last four weeks, calls to the organization's mental health helpline have increased by about 20 per cent above pre-pandemic levels.
- From February to April this year, the organization received about 167 calls a day to its Here 24/7 helpline.
- Between mid-June and July, daily calls increased to around 190. In the last four weeks, there has been an average of over 200 calls every day, said the association.
- While some people white-knuckled their way through the first few weeks of COVID-19, as time goes by it's getting harder to cope, the organization's executive director told CBC News.

To read the full CBC News article, visit: [More people calling mental health help lines](#)

Reminder that there are free employee resources available 24/7 through ComPsych if you need to talk with someone:

#### Here when you need us.

Call: 1-866-641-3847

TTY: 800.697.0353

Online: [guidanceresources.com](https://guidanceresources.com)

App: GuidanceNow<sup>SM</sup>

Web ID: TOWNOFMIDLAND

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.