



Update – May 22, 2020

1) North Simcoe Recovery Framework for Re-opening

- A draft Recovery Framework has been completed and reviewed at the first meeting with our North Simcoe neighbours held on May 15, 2020. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2020.
- The Recovery Framework reinforces the Health & Safety Internal Responsibility System of our corporate family. The Joint Health and Safety Committee plays an integral part in the recovery of a pandemic to review and create guidelines and standard operating procedures to ensure employee safety for re-opening.

2) Face coverings now recommended when physical distancing is a challenge

As the Ontario government carefully and gradually reopens the province, those taking public transit, returning to work or going out shopping are being urged to continue to adhere to public health advice as the best line of defence against COVID-19. To assist the public, the Ministry of Health today released specific recommendations on how to choose, wear and care for appropriate face coverings used in public where physical distancing is not possible, along with additional safety measures for provincial transit agencies.

In order to assist people and reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health released the following face covering recommendations:

- Wear your face covering safely and snugly to cover your nose and mouth, without any gaps. Ensure your face covering is made of at least two layers of tightly woven material and can be cleaned multiple times without losing its shape;
- Medical masks, such as surgical and N95 masks, should be reserved for use by health care workers, those providing direct care, first responders and individuals who are ill and must leave their home for essential reasons such as seeking medical care, picking up medication or groceries;
- Face coverings should not be placed on or used by children under the age of two; anyone who has trouble breathing; and anyone who is unable to remove it without assistance.

To read the full media release, visit: [Face coverings now recommended](#)

For more tips on wearing masks, visit the SMDHU's page here: [When and how to wear a non-medical mask](#)

3) Health Canada approves first Canadian clinical trial for potential COVID-19 vaccine

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced last Saturday that the Canadian Center for Vaccinology at Dalhousie University has been given the green light by the federal health authority to begin clinical trials of vaccine candidate.
- Trudeau said the National Research Council of Canada will work with the manufacturers of the potential vaccine so that it would be able to be manufactured domestically should the trials be successful.
- Health Canada has authorized 33 clinical trials for supportive care or treatments for COVID-19 to date. The vaccine trial announced Saturday, however, marks the first approved Canadian endeavour at finding a vaccine for the disease.

For the full CTV News article and video, visit: [First clinical trial for potential vaccine](#)



4) Province Announces First Phase of Research Projects to Fight COVID-19

- The Ontario government is quickly moving forward with innovative research to prevent, detect and treat COVID-19. These projects, part of the government's \$20 million Ontario COVID-19 Rapid Research Fund, focus on areas of research such as vaccine development, diagnostics, drug trials and development, and social sciences. Additionally, Ontario is leading the country with 22 clinical trials investigating COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.
- The Ontario government is funding 15 high-quality and promising proposals that were submitted in response to a recent call for proposals for the Ontario COVID-19 Rapid Research Fund. Announced only four weeks ago, the \$20 million fund was created as an immediate response to engaging the research community on ways to fight COVID-19. Where relevant, a portion of these funds will be used to cover costs associated with licensing and commercialization, including patenting, of the valuable intellectual property generated by successful projects to ensure any economic outcomes from these proposals benefit Ontario's economy, workers and researchers.

To read the full media release, please visit: [First phase of research projects to fight COVID-19](#)

5) Health and Safety Top Priority as Schools Remain Closed

Government unveils plans for reopening child care, day camps and initiatives to strengthen learning into the summer

- The Ontario government is protecting the health and safety of students during the COVID-19 outbreak by keeping schools closed for the rest of this school year. This decision was made after consulting with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, health experts on the COVID-19 Command Table, and medical experts at The Hospital for Sick Children. At the same time, the government is planning for the reopening of schools for the 2020-21 school year, the gradual reopening of child care, and the opening of summer day camps subject to the continuing progress in trends of key public health indicators.
- All students who were on track to graduate from secondary school before the initial school closure order was made in March will be able to graduate, and all students will receive report cards.
- Later this summer, the government will announce a plan to strengthen learning and safety protocols to enable students and staff to return to in-class instruction for the 2020-21 school year. That plan will be bolstered by an enhanced province-wide virtual learning program that will allow all students to learn, regardless of the challenges that may transpire in the coming months.

To read the full media release, visit: [Schools remain closed](#)

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.