

# COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Town of Woodstock Response

*Please be advised that, following the Province's State of Emergency Declaration on March 17, 2020, all staff working in non-essential Town services have been directed to stay home in order to slow the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Our office staff will nevertheless be working remotely. While Town services may be affected as we focus on essential services, every effort will be made in order to return messages and answer questions as quickly as possible.*

**April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020-New Brunswick has extended its state of emergency declaration for another 14 days until April 15<sup>th</sup>. [Renewed April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020](#)**

## Updates April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### Easter Weekend From Government of New Brunswick

With Easter weekend approaching, it's important to remember that in-person religious services in New Brunswick are prohibited as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Large gatherings – both indoor and outdoor – even for church, are not allowed under the State of Emergency order currently in place. Religious services can be live-streamed, but no parishioners or congregation members can be on site, and those operating equipment must maintain physical distancing. With your cooperation, we will make Easter and all religious observations as safe as possible for

Dr. Jennifer Russell, chief medical officer of health, has directed New Brunswickers not to hold family gatherings, attend in-person religious services or hold recreational events over the Easter weekend, to avoid further spread of the COVID-19 virus.

*"The temptation to gather with friends and loved ones will be great this weekend," said Russell. "You may think 'it's just my family' or 'it's just my friends.' But the COVID-19 virus may be an uninvited guest at your event, brought along by someone who has only mild symptoms, or no symptoms at all. Do not let that happen."*

### *Buying essentials*

Residents are reminded that many retailers will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Higgs encouraged people to make any essential purchases in advance, or plan to wait until next week, and to continue to observe restrictions and physical distancing requirements.

"We are grateful for all the essential retail workers who continue to provide important services and necessities," said Higgs. "For everyone's safety, we ask that households choose one person to be the designated shopper, whenever possible."

## **Woodstock Police:**

The Woodstock Police Force wishes everyone a safe and happy Easter weekend. Citizens are respectfully reminded that the social distancing measures implemented by the government are in place for everyone's safety and well-being. During this time we ask for everyone's continued cooperation and compliance with all provisions outlined under the State of Emergency Mandatory Order for New Brunswick. Specifically, we remind everyone not to gather socially, or to visit family/friends who reside at a separate residence. These measures have been put in place to prevent the spread of Covid 19 and must be followed while in effect, even during this Easter Weekend. During their regular patrols, the Woodstock Police Force will conduct compliance checks and shall enforce provisions outlined in the Order where and when violations are observed. As always, we thank you for your support and valued partnership in keeping all citizens safe.

## **Key Messages**

- We all have a role to play in contributing to public safety during this state of emergency.
- We are asking people to do what New Brunswickers do so well – look out for one another.
- Our primary focus remains working with our communities to ensure we're doing everything we can to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- That may include tickets or other enforcement actions if people are not following the directives aimed at keeping everyone safe.
- Please report any crime or suspicious behavior to police.
- If people need to get in touch with police, we ask that they call and avoid going to any of our offices in person. In an emergency, continue to call 911.
- You may see police responding with personal protection equipment such as facemasks - this is for the safety of the public and police in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

## **FAQ**

### **1.) Will the Woodstock Police Force (WPF) enforce isolation/social distancing orders under the state of emergency?**

We all have a role to play in flattening the curve and protecting our friends, neighbours and loved ones from COVID-19. In line with the Emergency Measures Act, the WPF and its law enforcement partners are continuing to encourage and promote compliance with the steps outlined by the Chief Medical Officer of Health to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

### **2.) Will you start ticketing/arresting people who are not complying?**

Again, we are encouraging and promoting compliance by partnering with our community to inform and educate. Fines or other enforcement actions are possible if people choose to ignore or violate the directives aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19.

New Brunswickers are very good at looking out for one another in times of need. We are asking people to help protect their communities by reporting crime and suspicious behavior to police, and by adhering to the steps outlined by government to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

### **3.) Has the Woodstock Police Force (WPF) issued tickets to people for not following social distancing?**

As of 6 April 2020, the WPF has issued 1 (one) compliance order and no fines to date. We can advise that we are documenting and investigating complaints as they are received. If in the event

compliance orders are not followed, police officers may issue fines and charges where necessary. What we are doing is encouraging people to follow the instructions from the Chief Medical Officer of Health to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

### **Events Postponed**

- Dooryard Arts Festival postponed until 2021-Press Release on Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/dooryardfestival/>
- Sports Wall of Fame- May 9, 2020 postponed until Fall 2020

### **Spring Clean Ups \***

Town of Woodstock (Tuesday or Wednesday - whenever your regular pick-up day is) May 5 or 6, 2020

Place your brush and bagged leaves (**paper bags only**) in a neat pile near the edge of the road before brush removal week begins to ensure your brush is picked up.

Carleton West LSDs (local service districts)

LSD of Woodstock/Benton/Debec (Monday) May 25, 2020

LSD of Woodstock/Richmond (Tuesday) May 26, 2020

LSD of Upper Woodstock/Wakefield/Wilmot (Wednesday) May 27, 2020

\*these dates are subject to change depending on the Covid 19 situation

The Town of Woodstock Department Heads & Mayor are actively monitoring the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation and taking appropriate actions to protect the public and staff while continuing to deliver essential services. We are following the advice and recommendations of the [Office of the Chief Medical Officer of New Brunswick](#) and the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#).

## What is the Town doing?

Here are the steps we are taking to protect the public and staff while continuing to deliver essential services.

### What Town facilities are closed?

- Town Hall
- AYR Motor Centre
- Town operated Daycare Facilities
- Public Works Garage
- Woodstock Fire Hall ***closed to the public***
- Woodstock Police Force ***office to the public***
- LP Fisher Public Library & Thompson Centre
- McCain Community Theatre
- Community Van- 15 passenger
- Playgrounds- Connell Park Road, Jules Drive, Eastwood Drive, Slipp Street, Poole Street & Grant Street

### What essential services continue to operate?

- **911 Communications Centre.** In the event of an emergency, the public should continue to call 9-1-1. For those **exhibiting symptoms** of COVID-19 (coronavirus), please call 8-1-1
- **Other essential services** that will continue to operate include:
  - potable water
  - sewage treatment
  - Police (The Woodstock Police Force remains dedicated to our core functions of serving and protecting everyone in our community in the wake of COVID-19.)
  - Fire services
    - In the Event of a fire During fire alarms in your buildings, PLEASE keep physical distance from the fire crews responding and each other.
    - If you have information on why the alarm activated, and can help us mitigate the situation, identify yourself from a distance.

- Please keep hallways, stairs, entrances and rooms clear. Spread out outside of the building. Keep us safe, while we keep you safe!
  - Garbage & recycling collection continues, as well as pickup at recycling bins depots.
  - Roadway operations, such as snow removal & pothole filling
  - public communications.
- **Payments and Permits.** The payment and permit desks at Town Hall are closed. Many Town payments and permits can still be processed online. See the list that follows:
  - Water & Sewer – Payments can be made through the customer portal <https://woodstock.ws.townsuite.com/>, telephone or online banking, or mail your cheque to 824 Main Street, Woodstock, NB, E7M 2E8. If these options are not available to you, please call Town Hall 325-4600. During COVID-19, the Town will not be disconnecting water for customers who are in arrears. If you are unable to pay your utility bill at this time, please email [clerk@town.woodstock.nb.ca](mailto:clerk@town.woodstock.nb.ca) or call Town Hall at 506-325-4600 to make payment arrangements.
  - Building / Sign Permits – email: [buildinginspector@town.woodstock.nb.ca](mailto:buildinginspector@town.woodstock.nb.ca) or call 325-4617.
  - Other Permits – Please call Town Hall 325-4600 or email [townhall@town.woodstock.nb.ca](mailto:townhall@town.woodstock.nb.ca)
- **Town Council Meetings.** Council-in-Committee and Regular Council meetings will occur by conference call. Agenda items for those meetings will focus on matters of governance related to keeping the Town running.

## Protective Measures

- Staff carrying out essential services will follow all provincial safety protocols to protect themselves and the public from COVID-19.
- This includes practicing social distancing, washing hands and/or using hand sanitizer, wearing protective gear, as appropriate, and cleaning high touch surfaces. Employees who feel ill will immediately be asked to self-isolate.

## Travel

- All travel involving Town of Woodstock employees has been suspended until further notice.
- An employee who has travelled abroad is required to self-isolate for 14 days upon their return to Canada as per the Public Health Agency of Canada's guidelines

## Fires

- All open fires are prohibited until May 1, 2020. “Open Fires” means any burning where combustible products are not vented through a stack or chimney. This includes the burning of grass, debris and other woody material. It does not include stoves and BBQs that burn gaseous materials or briquettes, CSA-approved screen outdoor fireplaces, wood fires for purpose of boiling sap to produce maple syrup or burning under a valid permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development.

## What can you do?

Here's what YOU can do to help to reduce the possibility of spreading the virus:

- Stay informed about COVID-19 (coronavirus) and observe all safety protocols listed on the [GNB.ca/coronavirus](https://www.gnb.ca/coronavirus) website.
- Your mental health is important in these situations. Here are some [tips on how to deal with stress in emergencies](#).
- Stay HOME at all times possible

## GROCERY SHOPPING TIPS

- Designate one person in your household to get essential items, such as groceries, prescriptions, fuel, etc.
- Do not make daily visits to the store.
- Wait your turn when shopping and avoid reaching over others.
- Always maintain social distancing and make sure there is 6-feet (2-metres) between you and another individual at all times.
- Pay very close attention to the instructions provided by the store.
- Use one of the delivery or pick-up options available.
- Wherever possible, stay home.

## How can I stay informed about the Town's response?

- For updates about the Town of Woodstock and our COVID-19 response, follow us on [Facebook](#), [download the Town App](#) and sign up for [Town email alerts](#). You can always reach out to us if you have any questions during this difficult time by email [townhall@town.woodstock.nb.ca](mailto:townhall@town.woodstock.nb.ca) or phone 506-325-4600.