



COVID-19 Pandemic Briefing

Update on the Municipal Response to COVID-19

Presentation to Municipal Council | April 14, 2021

Agenda Topics

- ▶ What's been happening
- ▶ Provincial Declaration – State of Emergency
- ▶ Municipal Operations and Staffing Update
- ▶ Fiscal Preparedness during Pandemic
- ▶ Automation of Council Meetings
- ▶ Next Steps
- ▶ Questions / General Discussion



What's been happening since the outbreak began?

- ▶ Middlesex Centre declared an Emergency on March 17, 2020
- ▶ Emergency Control Group has met since onset and continues to meet weekly to review continuity of municipal operations, health and safety of staff & residents, and to liaise with external stakeholders such as Health Unit, Police, County and other municipal partners
- ▶ Up-to-date pandemic response information on municipal website: middlesexcentre.on.ca/covid19
- ▶ Staff and Council briefed almost daily on updates taking place



(Third) Provincial Declaration of Emergency

- ▶ On April 7, 2021, the Provincial Government declared a (third) State of Emergency to take effect April 8, 2021 for a four week period
- ▶ Over and above the province-wide Stay-At-Home Order – some of the notable differences include:
 - Restricting access to certain retail stores
 - Types of retail sales are limited to essential needs and limiting the operating hours
 - Schools remain open
- ▶ Information about the Stay-At-Home Order can be found at:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61029/ontario-enacts-provincial-emergency-and-stay-at-home-order>



Stay At Home Order(s)

- ▶ As part of the State of Emergency declared by the Province, a Stay-At-Home Order has been issued
- ▶ Details about Stay-At-Home Order can be found at:
 - [Ontario regulation 10/21](#)
under *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*
 - [Ontario regulation 11/21](#)
under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*



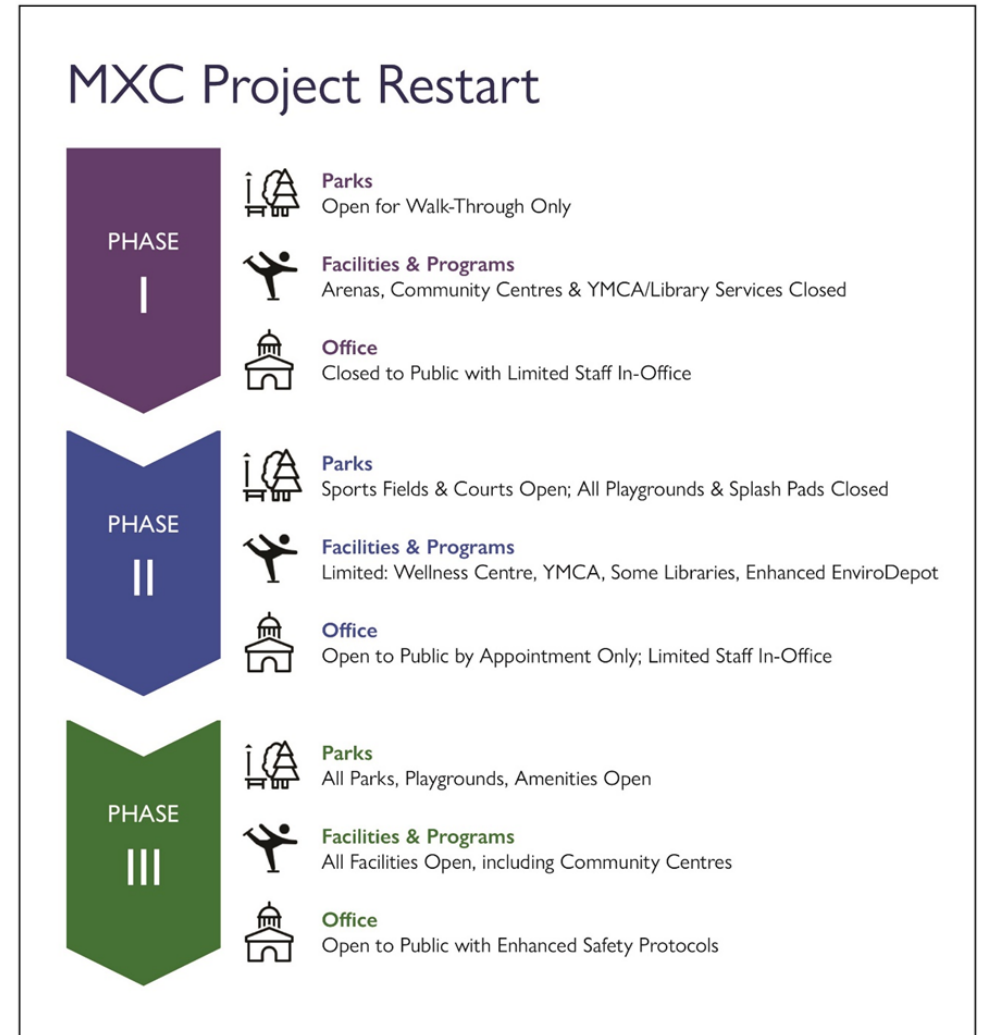
COVID Vaccination Program Under Way

- ▶ The Middlesex-London Health Unit is overseeing the distribution of the COVID vaccine for our area
- ▶ The vaccine eligibility is progressing and constantly changing to include more individuals – residents can check the website to register:
<https://www.healthunit.com/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility>
- ▶ Note that the MLHU has its own separate booking system that is different than the provincial system: <https://www.covidvaccinelm.ca/>



Municipal Recovery Action Plan

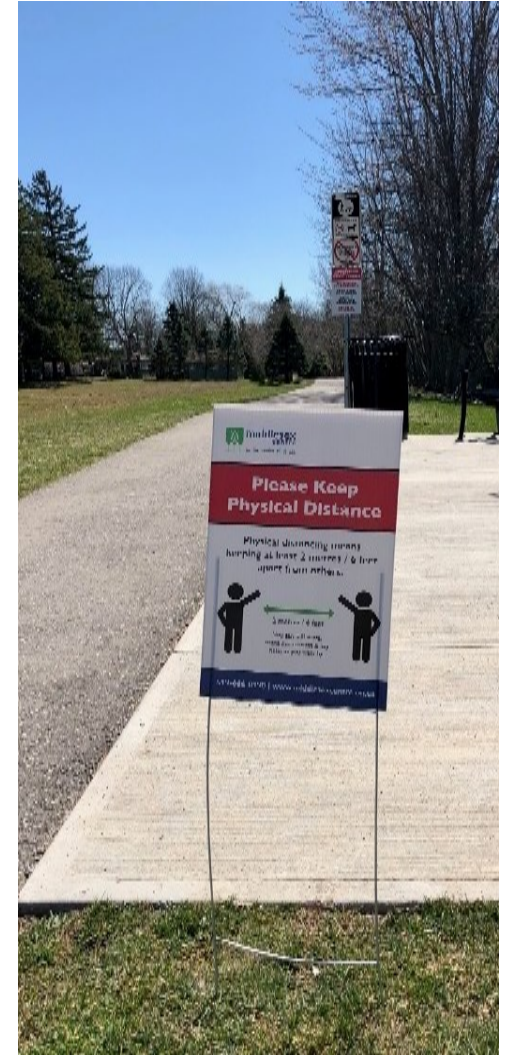
- ▶ Continue to implement MXC Project Restart, which aligns with the Provincial Recovery Plan: middlesexcentre.on.ca/covid19-reopening
- ▶ The plan outlines a staged reopening approach for all affected municipal services/facilities, with a focus on continuation of essential services
- ▶ Plan is flexible to allow for necessary service changes in response to the State of Emergency, i.e. managing through a second wave



Municipal Operations affected by State of Emergency

▶ Municipal Facilities

- All public serving facilities are closed during the shut-down period
- Municipal Office is closed to the public – services available online or by appointment based on need
- Once Order ends, outward facing services and facilities will reopen
- Hybrid approach some amenities open such as playgrounds, sports courts & walking trails open



Municipal Operations affected by State of Emergency

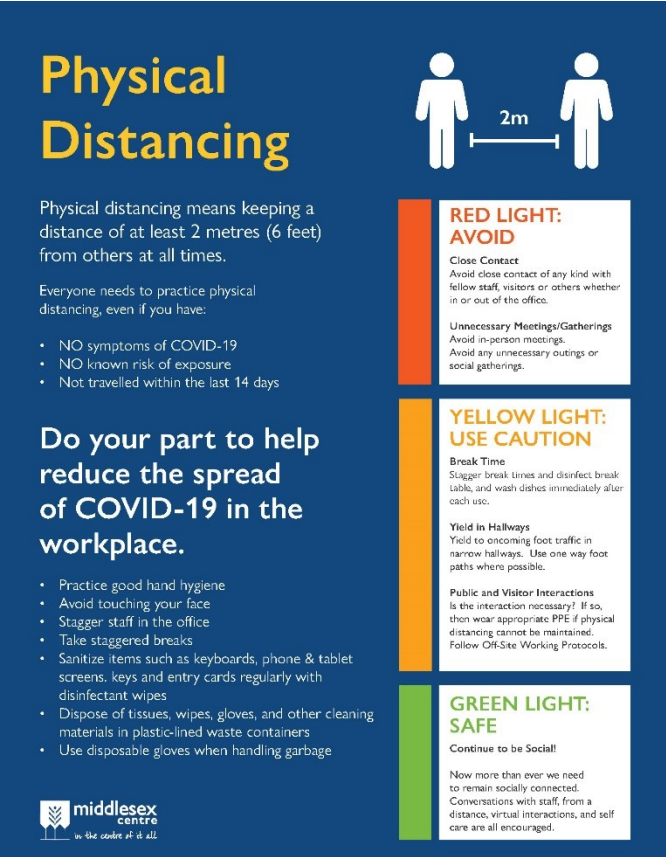
▶ Continuity of Essential Services

- Essential services such as water/wastewater treatment and public works, among others, will continue during shut-down
- Staff may see changes to shifts/working hours and work locations (work-from-home) due to stay at home order
- Other functions such as building department is operating to manage construction activity



Operations for Municipal Staff

- ▶ All full-time staff have continued to work throughout the pandemic – seamless transition to work remotely
- ▶ All staff have received formal Health and Safety Training prior to returning to work
- ▶ Outside staff have transitioned back to normal working hours
- ▶ Proper training and cleaning/safety protocols have been established
- ▶ Daily COVID Screening protocols established for staff and public



Physical Distancing

Physical distancing means keeping a distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from others at all times.

Everyone needs to practice physical distancing, even if you have:

- NO symptoms of COVID-19
- NO known risk of exposure
- Not travelled within the last 14 days

Do your part to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.

- Practice good hand hygiene
- Avoid touching your face
- Stagger staff in the office
- Take staggered breaks
- Sanitize items such as keyboards, phone & tablet screens, keys and entry cards regularly with disinfectant wipes
- Dispose of tissues, wipes, gloves, and other cleaning materials in plastic-lined waste containers
- Use disposable gloves when handling garbage

RED LIGHT: AVOID

Close Contact
Avoid close contact of any kind with fellow staff, visitors or others whether in or out of the office.

Unnecessary Meetings/Gatherings
Avoid in-person meetings.
Avoid any unnecessary outings or social gatherings.

YELLOW LIGHT: USE CAUTION

Break Time
Stagger break times and disinfect break table, and wash dishes immediately after each use.


Yield in Hallways
Yield to oncoming foot traffic in narrow hallways. Use one way foot paths where possible.

Public and Visitor Interactions
Is the interaction necessary? If so, then wear appropriate PPE if physical distancing cannot be maintained. Follow Off-Site Working Protocols.

GREEN LIGHT: SAFE

Continue to be Social!

Now more than ever we need to remain socially connected. Conversations with staff, from a distance, virtual interactions, and self care are all encouraged.

 **middlesex centre**
in the centre of it all.



Automated Screening Protocols

- ▶ The Municipality has enacted automated screening protocols for patrons, contractors using municipal facilities – the QR Code is seamless and used by staff, council and now the general public



Visitors / Contractors



Employee



Fiscal Preparedness during COVID-19

- ▶ Monthly reporting to Council to track revenues and expenses as is noted on today's council agenda with quarterly forecasting related to COVID expenses
- ▶ Cost-containment strategies have been implemented including cutting back expenditures and deferring capital projects
- ▶ Municipality received funding through the Canada Safe Restart, amounts in two phases:
 - ▶ Phase 1 \$357,000 for infrastructure
 - ▶ Phase 2 \$80,000 for expenses related to COVID-19



Fiscal Assistance to Residents

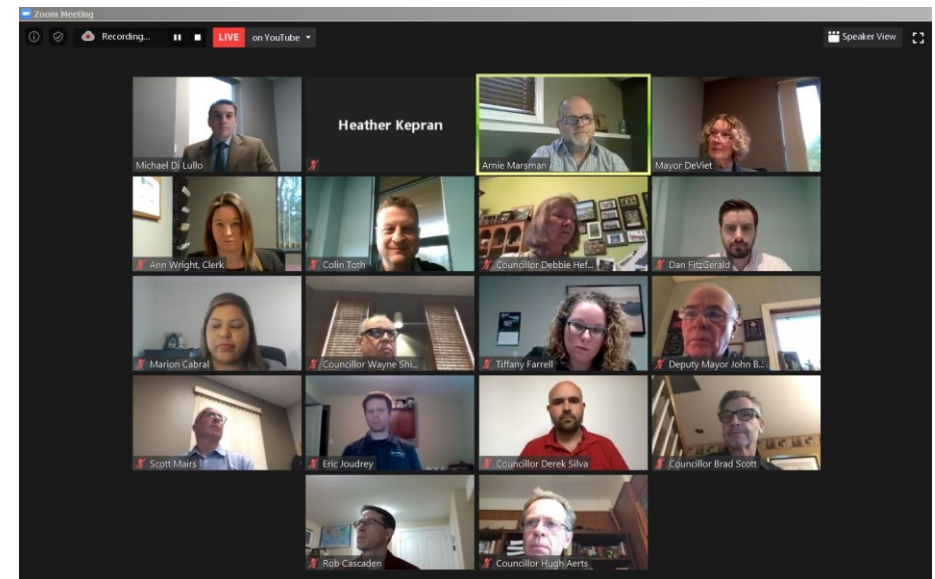
- ▶ Moved the property tax and water billing to end of March instead of February
- ▶ Municipality approved a new Community Improvement Plan at the beginning of the year and has seen an uptake on the number of applications to assist our area businesses
- ▶ Working closely with the County Economic Resiliency Task Force to learn and assist businesses and the community where possible

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Impacts to Council – Meetings

- ▶ Meetings returned with council members present prior to the Provincial shutdown and YouTube live-streaming platforms in effect since April
- ▶ Once Provincial Stay-at-Home Order ends, resume in-person for elected members (council members will have flexibility to continue to use Zoom) while continuing to live-stream
- ▶ On a go-forward basis, the Municipal Act now permits the usage of technology as a way to conduct meetings and continue business of the municipality



Next Steps

- ▶ Continue to meet as an Emergency Control Group
- ▶ Monitor and respond to Provincial and Health Unit direction and protocols
- ▶ Providing assistance if called upon for the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution
- ▶ Ensure municipal staff are equipped to return to work via training, sanitation supplies, flexible working arrangements etc.
- ▶ Continue to update Municipal website:
middlesexcentre.on.ca/covid-19



Questions?



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