

COVID-19 Pandemic Briefing

Update on the Municipal Response to COVID-19

Agenda Topics

- ▶ What's been happening
- ▶ Provincial Ontario Regulation 364/20 & Section 22 MLHU Orders
- ▶ Municipal Operations and Staffing Update
- ▶ Fiscal Preparedness during Pandemic
- ▶ Electronic (Virtual) 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



Ontario Regulation 364/20

- ▶ Rules for Areas at Step 3 and at the Roadmap to Exit
- ▶ Effective September 22, 2021, as per Provincial Regulation, patrons seeking access to the Wellness Centre, Ilderton Arena and all municipal community centres must show proof of identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before they can enter the facilities, with limited exceptions
- ▶ Patrons who provide a written document stating a medical exemption from being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must still provide identification and will be designated to a certain area in the facility
- ▶ Information on municipal website:
<https://www.middlesexcentre.on.ca/articles/proof-covid-19-vaccine-required-municipal-recreation-facilities>



Section 22 Health Unit Orders

- ▶ Effective September 23, 2021, the Medical Officer of Health has issued the following Orders under the Health Protection and Promotion Act:
 - The first Order re-iterates the limits placed on social gatherings in London and Middlesex County as set out in the *Reopening Ontario Act* whereby indoor social gatherings are capped at 25 people and limiting outdoor gatherings to 100
 - The second Order applies to establishments that serve food and alcohol – any patron who attends such an establishment must wear a mask or face covering at all times, except when they are consuming food or beverages while seated in a designated area



COVID Vaccination Program Under Way

- ▶ The Middlesex-London Health Unit is overseeing the distribution of the COVID vaccine for our area
- ▶ The Health Unit has now reverted more to pop-up clinics to enable all individuals the opportunity to be vaccinated:
<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/>



Vaccination Guidelines for Municipal Staff

- ▶ A vaccination guideline has been administered for all municipal staff that took effect on September 17, 2021
- ▶ A report will be forthcoming to October Council to look at expanding the scope of this guideline to contractors/people performing work for the Municipality, interns/coop positions, and Members of Council



Municipal Operations affected by Fourth Wave

► Municipal Facilities

- All public serving facilities are open
- Municipal Office is open to the public
 - Services available online or by appointment based on need



Municipal Operations affected by Fourth Wave

► Continuity of Essential Services

- Essential services such as water/wastewater treatment and public works, among others continue
- Staff may see changes to shifts/working hours and work locations (work-from-home)
- 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.

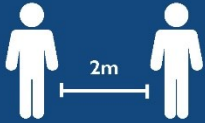
Everyone needs to practice physical distancing, even if you have:

- 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.



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



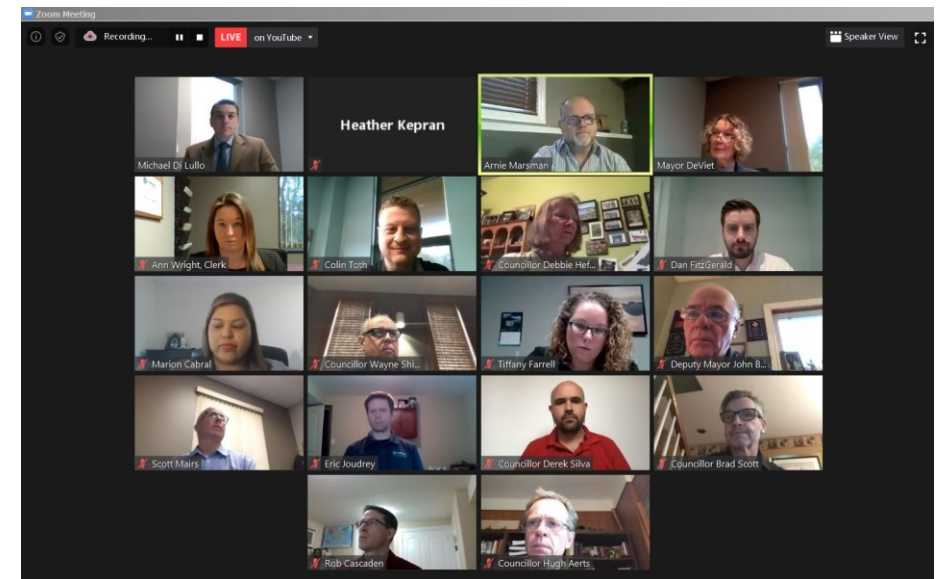
Fiscal Preparedness during COVID-19

- ▶ 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 2021 COVID Recovery Funding in the amount of \$254,118 to support operating costs and pressures



Impacts to Council – Meetings

- ▶ Meetings returned with council members present prior to the Provincial shutdown and YouTube live-streaming continues to work effectively to move business of municipality
- ▶ 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 to encourage more individuals to get vaccinated
- ▶ Ensure municipal staff are equipped to work productively via training, sanitation supplies, flexible working arrangements etc.
- ▶ Continue to update Municipal website:
middlesexcentre.on.ca/covid-19



Questions?



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