



For Immediate Release

Minden, Ontario
Wednesday March 18, 2020
2:15 PM
Release #20-12

Subject: Minden Hills COVID-19 Additional Facility Closures

The Minden Hills Emergency Control Group met today following yesterday's Declaration of Emergency by both the Province of Ontario and the Township of Minden Hills. As a result of the Control Group's discussions, **all Township facilities will be closed to the public, effective end of business day March 18, 2020, until further notice.**

This measure has been undertaken in response to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic and with particular regard to the Emergency Declarations noted above. Our first priority is for the protection of the public and staff.

The public can be assured that essential services will be maintained as much as possible.

Fire Services:

-) Services will continue to operate at full capacity with appropriate precautions in place; and
-) We would like to remind everyone to call 911 for all emergency situations.

Requests for assistance or information from the following departments can be done by calling the Township's main switchboard **705-286-1260**, or emailing admin@mindenhills.ca

Please do not call the various Departments or the related extensions.

These administrative services will remain available between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday.

For after-hour Township related emergencies please call: 1-866-856-3247.

We are asking the public to please understand that it may take longer to reply to messages as staff handle increased phone and email inquiries.

With reference to the Township's Emergency Management Plan – Continuity of Operations, the determination of priority items for all departments will be at the discretion of the Township.

Building/By-Law and Planning Department

-) Interaction with staff is limited to appointment only;
-) Application forms pertaining to these departments can be found online;
-) Meetings related to planning matters with legislated timelines will occur until or unless other legislative requirements are determined by the Province of Ontario;
-) Staff will continue to field building inspection requests;
-) Septic inspections were suspended December 2019, and will continue to be suspended until further notice;
-) Appropriate distancing and hygiene protocols will be required by staff and all participants; as determined by the Township; and
-) The public is asked to consider the urgency of their request or application.

Finance Department

Payment of Accounts:

-) Cash and debit payments have been suspended;
-) Please refer to the following table for all other payment methods:

Payment Method	Taxes	Water & Sewer	Other Misc. Billings
Cash or Debit	Not Permitted at this Time	Not Permitted at this Time	Not Permitted at this Time
On-Line & Telephone Banking	✓	✓	Not Available
Cheque (by Mail or Township Secure Drop Box)	✓	✓	✓
Pre-Authorized Payment	✓	Not Available unless previously set-up	Not Available
Financial Institution	✓	✓	Not Available

-) The secure (locked) drop box (as noted in the above table) is labelled and located on the north wall of the Administration building facing Pritchard Lane and the Municipal parking lot. It is accessed from the wheelchair entrance and is at the top of the first ramp;

Absolutely no cash is to be deposited in the drop box; and

-) Interest and penalties for non-payment of accounts will be suspended until April 24, 2020. While due dates have been extended, we encourage account holders to utilize the payment methods noted above, and to submit payments as soon as reasonably possible.

Payment of all Vendor Accounts (Accounts Payable):

-) Will continue according to normal processes;
-) Due to the office closure, invoices must be mailed or placed in the Township Drop Box – see details above.

Parks, Recreation, Community and Cultural Services

-) As previously communicated these facilities are closed.

Public Washrooms

-) All public washrooms and portable toilets (port-a-potties) are closed for public use.

Public Wi-Fi Hotspots

-) Will remain available at the following locations:

- Administration Building – #7 Milne Street - Parking Lot
- Minden Hills Library – #174 Bobcaygeon Road – Parking Lot

Public Works

Landfills:

-) EFFECTIVE FRIDAY, March 20, 2020 and until further notice.
 - Landfill services will be reduced in an attempt to limit interaction and handling of cash and receipts between attendants and the public;
 - The following service reductions will be in effect at **all** Minden Hills Waste Sites:
 - 1.) Only bagged household waste and recycling will be accepted.
 - 2.) Maximum bags accepted will remain at 3; however, any additional bags will not be permitted.
 - 3.) Residents shall not engage in casual conversation with site attendants.
 - 4.) The Township will not be accepting loose waste, construction and demolition material, commercial waste, tires, scrap metal, electronics, textiles or any other non-household bagged waste.
 - 5.) Tipping fees will be waived for Cardboard until April 30, 2020.
-) The Township asks that residents avoid attending waste sites until absolutely necessary. Please hold your waste and recycling as long as possible and utilize the 3 bag maximum limit; and
-) Please ensure you check for up-to-date information prior to attending a landfill site.

Roads:

-) Service levels will be maintained in accordance with minimum maintenance standards.

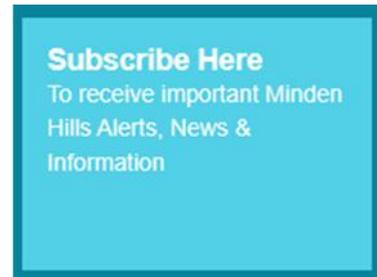
We thank the public for their understanding as we work toward keeping our community safe and healthy.

The Township of Minden Hills encourages social distancing measures as a way to minimize COVID-19 transmission in the community. This means minimizing close contact with others during this outbreak. The health and safety of the community is our priority and we will continue to provide updates as information becomes available to us. We encourage everyone to visit our website at www.minden hills.ca, as well as the following websites, for up to date news and information:

-) Public Health Ontario - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus/public-resources>
-) Ministry of Health - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus?amp;amp;amp;amp;amp;amp;amp;amp;amp;amp;qid=95944921>
-) Health Canada - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html?amp%3Bamp%3Bamp%3Bqid=96637021>

To receive important information and updates, including in the event of an emergency, please ensure that you are subscribed to the Minden Hills website. Do this by simply clicking the **Subscribe Here** button, located at the bottom of the Minden Hills website, and complete the following:

- Name and email address
- Select any or all of the options listed to receive notifications.
- You will receive a confirmation email thanking you for subscribing.
IMPORTANT: Check your spam folder if you do not receive the confirmation email.



The Municipality will continue to communicate all information by means of media broadcasting and media releases to radio stations, local newspapers and our website.

For Municipal Emergency contact after hours call: 1-866-856-3247

For Emergency Services call: 911

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Contact Information:

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