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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2020

Municipal Emergency Control Group continues to stress physical distancing with the arrival of warmer weather

The highlights of the Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) held today are listed below. The group, which meets weekly, hears regular reports from area police and fire officials, the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit and Counties departments, including Community and Social Services, Paramedic Service, Public Works, Finance and Maple View Lodge long-term care facility.

Physical distancing remains important as more people spending time outside

United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Warden Pat Sayeau is reminding area residents safe physical activity outdoors means maintaining physical distancing requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Each spring, warmer weather typically signifies getting out of our homes and reconnecting with family and friends. At this time however, we must continue to follow all public health directives, especially those related to physical distancing, to ensure to limit risks of COVID-19 to ourselves and others” said Warden Sayeau in his opening remarks during the meeting. The fishing season is open but residents are to respect local decisions to close boat ramps and to avoid congregating in open spaces.

For more information about staying active during the pandemic, visit the [Leeds Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit website](#).

Expansion of Emergency Child Care Centres in Kemptville and Brockville

Leeds Grenville Community and Social Services is expanding Emergency Child Care Centres to meet the needs of qualifying essential and front-line workers. Centres located in Kemptville and Brockville are open seven days a week. Capacity at these centres may

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be expanded if needed. Childcare rooms are limited to six children each to maintain required distancing guidelines. Click here for the [Application form](#).

Community program proposals using Social Service Emergency Fund

The administration of the Social Services Emergency Fund dollars is underway. There are 11 community proposals for the funding, most of which are related to food and food service delivery. Additional funding will be phased in in July and into the fall. Additional community proposals will be sought and evaluated at that time.

Temporary Social Distancing Centre

A Temporary Social Distancing Centre which began accepting referrals last Thursday is currently at capacity providing temporary shelter for nine individuals.

"The Temporary Self Distancing Centre is intended to support those in our community that may be precariously housed and would benefit from the opportunity to socially distance," said Alison Tutak, Counties Community Emergency Management Coordinator and Director of Community and Social Services.

The next meeting of the Municipal Emergency Control Group is Monday, April 27, 9 a.m., unless an earlier meeting is required. Warden Sayeau declared a State of Emergency for Leeds and Grenville on Wednesday, April 7th. Learn more on the [Counties COVID-19 Information webpage](#).

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