



United Counties of
Leeds and Grenville
25 Central Ave. W., Suite 100
Brockville, ON K6V 4N6
T 613-342-3840
800-770-2170
TTY 800-539-8685
F 613-342-2101
www.leedsgrenville.com

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2020

Leeds Grenville Municipal Emergency Control Group updates

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

Counties preparing preliminary plans for restarting regular operations:

Senior managers at the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville are reviewing operations which may have been scaled back since the COVID-19 pandemic began and developing preliminary plans for restarting regular operations. Counties critical and essential operations have continued throughout the outbreak.

"I wish to thank all essential staff who have remained committed to their work throughout the pandemic. I expect staff are looking forward to a return to more normal work routines," Warden Pat Sayeau said.

The Counties will follow advice from the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health with respect to reopening to the public. For more information, contact Counties CAO Andy Brown at 613-342-3840, ext. 2301.

Four Emergency Child Care Centres now open:

Emergency Child Care Centres for essential workers have expanded to include four sites, two in Kemptville and two in Brockville. The centres are currently fulfilling the needs of the community with no children on the wait list. Staff is continuing to monitor whether additional spaces are needed. The province recently expanded the [List of Essential Workers](#) eligible for emergency child care.

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The application form is available on the Counties [Community and Social Services webpage](#).

Counties Paramedic Service helping test at long-term care homes:

Community Paramedicine efforts are continuing with Leeds Grenville's Paramedic Service, and the neighbouring Paramedic Service in Lanark County, assisting the region's health unit in testing residents and staff at long-term care facilities.

Leeds Grenville Paramedic Service Chief Jeff Carss reported community testing has been ramped up. Testing has been conducted at long-term care facilities in Athens, Brockville, Prescott and Merrickville. He noted more than 1,000 individuals have recently undergone testing.

"The Leeds Grenville Paramedic Service and the Lanark County Paramedic Service have been phenomenal in fulfilling the provincial requirement to perform widespread testing at our long-term care homes," said Dr. Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health for the tri-county area.

Testing at area retirement homes is expected to commence soon following direction of the [Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit](#).

Ministry of Health – Physical distancing remains important:

With parks and green spaces reopening, the Ministry of Health and the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit continue to stress the importance of physical distancing.

At today's MECG meeting, Dr. Paula Stewart, of the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, said it is crucial to continue to stay away from play structures, park benches and other park equipment to contain the spread of the virus.

Travellers returning to Canada are reminded they are required to self-isolate for 14 days. Anyone with [symptoms](#) must self-isolate for two weeks or get tested. Learn more on the Health Unit's [COVID-19 webpage](#).

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MECG's next meeting: The next meeting of the Municipal Emergency Control Group is Monday, May 25, 9 a.m., unless an earlier meeting is required. Warden Sayeau declared a State of Emergency for Leeds and Grenville on Wednesday, April 8th. Learn more on the [Counties COVID-19 Information webpage](#). Subscribe to a [Special COVID-19 Business Support webpage](#).

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Media inquiries:

Andy Brown, Chief Administrative Officer,
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
25 Central Avenue,
Brockville, ON K6V 4R9
613-342-3840, ext. 2301 or andy.brown@uclg.on.ca

Sheena Earl, Emergency Information Officer,
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville,
25 Central Avenue,
Brockville, ON, K6V 4R9
613-802-8856 or Sheena.Earl@uclg.on.ca

Deanna Clark, Economic Development Officer/media releases,
United Counties of Leeds Grenville
32 Wall Street, Suite 300, Brockville, ON, K6V 4R9
613-342-3840, ext. 5360 or deanna.clark@uclg.on.ca
Cell: 613-803-0249