City of Cambridge
PANDEMIC TIMELINE
AND RESPONSE

2020

FEBRUARY

MARCH 5
- Small working group at the City forms to discuss pandemic plans and potential outbreak
- First local case of COVID-19

MARCH 9
- Regional Pandemic Control Group forms to guide the community-wide pandemic response in five areas: health, community support, critical infrastructure, municipalities and communications
- World Health Organization declares 2019 Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 a global pandemic

MARCH 11
- City activates Emergency Operations Centre
- City creates dedicated pandemic response team
- Launch of cambridge.ca/COVID-19 to share timely information with the public
- Public Health recommends the first in a series of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19

MARCH 12
- Municipally-run cultural and recreational facilities close to the public
- In-person Council, Standing Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee meetings are suspended
- Child Care centres close
  - Province of Ontario announces Declaration of Emergency
  - All municipal facilities close except for emergency and essential services
  - City implements a virtual workforce and redeploy staff to essential services
  - Ward 7 By-election is postponed (originally scheduled for March 23)

MARCH 15
- Provincial Government orders the mandatory closure of all non-essential workplaces

MARCH 17
- Region of Waterloo and the area municipalities announce Declaration of Emergency in accordance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act
- Economic Response Plan launches for immediate relief actions to support local residents, businesses and workers during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Dedicated INVEST Cambridge webpage launches to support local businesses
- Virtual Council meetings begin

MARCH 24
- Business and Economic Support Team of Waterloo Region (BESTWR) is created in aid of local businesses
• Provincial Government issues emergency order to close all outdoor recreational amenities
• City closes playgrounds, sports fields, dog parks, basketball and tennis courts, skateboard parks, park shelters and outdoor exercise equipment
• All municipal-affiliated festivals and events are canceled

• #RecFromHome online program launches to encourage residents to be active from home
• Facebook page dedicated to 50+ Recreation Centres and an Instagram account for Cambridge Youth launch

• Bylaw team expands to educate and enforce public health restrictions under the Emergency Act

• City Council approves cost containment plan for the City to help manage costs and offset lost revenue

• Essential City-led infrastructure construction is granted allowance to continue, while non-essential capital projects put on hold
• Ambassador Team increases presence and cleaning efforts in Core Areas
• Parks, trails, roads and sidewalk maintenance continues

• #OrderFromHome resource page and #DineFromHome crowd-sourced map launch to support local restaurants and businesses

• WOW Social for older adults launches to include phone and online outreach

• Ontario announces framework for reopening the province in three stages - Ontario enters Stage 1
• City staff implement a targeted clean-up blitz across the city; annual community spring clean-ups are canceled due to gathering restrictions

• #ShopFromHome online campaign launches – offering online shopping, curbside pickup and delivery options

• Community Care Gardens permitted to reopen

• Municipalities relax rules in City parks and open spaces
• Access to municipal parks and open spaces is permitted for some recreational purposes with physical distancing and public gathering limits (includes individual activity, and visitors can bring chair/blankets for sitting)

• City Council approves additional relief and support for residents and businesses

• City reopens skateparks, Riverside bike park, disc golf, basketball courts, soccer fields, tennis courts, volleyball courts, pickleball courts, dog parks and picnic shelters
• Residents can again use picnic tables, benches or shelters, in parks or recreational areas

• Business Outreach Survey launches to gather feedback on impact of pandemic on Cambridge businesses
• City launches “Cambridge 2020: Local History of a Pandemic” archive project
• Ontario government permits outdoor dining services to open
• City introduces streamlined process for business owners to expand restaurant patios and outdoor dining areas to support local businesses and encourage outside dining
• Region of Waterloo moves to Stage 2 under the provincial reopening framework
• First floor of City Hall reopens to the public for customer-related services
• Online Cambridge Celebration of the Arts premieres on City’s Facebook and YouTube channel
• Cambridge Farmers’ Market safely reopens to the public under new guidelines
• Canada Day celebrations and fireworks display held virtually on City’s Facebook and YouTube channel
• John Dolson and Ed Newland public swimming pools reopen for swimming lessons and recreational swimming with strict protocols
• Three of the City’s largest splashpads at Forbes Park, Riverside Park, and Churchill Park open with splashpad supervisors
• Region of Waterloo moves to Stage 3 of provincial reopening plan, allowing for the indoor dining, gyms and fitness facilities, as well as playgrounds, libraries and other community facilities
• Face covering bylaws in effect for transit and indoor public settings
• Modified City summer camps start with focus on outdoor play and smaller camp sizes including recreation camps, specialty arts camps, and online camps throughout the summer
• John Dolson Centre reopens
• All 65 City playgrounds reopen
• Filming resumes in Cambridge
• The City receives $3,069,100 in provincial/federal funding as relief for loss of revenue and incurred pandemic costs
• Mayor Kathryn McGarry, City Manager David Calder and City Councillors virtually attend the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference
• City begins planning for potential second wave of COVID-19 pandemic
Schools reopen across Ontario under new protocols
- Hespeler, Galt and Preston arenas reopen for minor sports group bookings only
- W.J. Johnson Centre reopens
- Cambridge Farmers' Market offers new online platform for pre-order and safer pick up
- All recreation facilities, including older adult centres and the Centre for the Arts, reopen
- Residents asked to sign up for drop-in classes in advance to help control class size
- Region of Waterloo Public Health announces second wave of COVID-19 pandemic
- Public Health calls for small Thanksgiving celebration as case counts rise
- Digital light show returns at Old Post Office with gathering limits
- City reminds residents to have a safe Halloween and follow Public Health orders
- Province introduces new colour-coded response framework as case counts rise across Ontario
- Waterloo Region moves into yellow ‘protect’ tier of COVID-19 restrictions
- Waterloo Region moves from the yellow to the orange ‘restrict’ zone under the province’s framework.
- Waterloo Region moves into the red ‘control’ tier under the provincial framework which further limits capacity numbers within recreation programs, restaurants, and businesses
- Modified 2020 Christmas in Cambridge festival launches, focusing on Winter Illumination; a city-wide festival of lights, and an Online Cambridge Christmas Market
- Provincial Government says Ontarians should celebrate holidays with own household only
- Public Health reports increase in community spread in the region and residents are urged to stay close to home and follow pandemic guidelines
- Mayor McGarry meets virtually with Premier Ford and mayors across the province to discuss vaccine roll out
- Health Canada approves COVID-19 vaccine

Stay the course
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