



April 3, 2020

Re: State of Emergency Declaration: City of Thorold

Dear Residents, Businesses and City Staff,

On Friday, April 3, 2020 at 11 a.m. I declared a State of Emergency on behalf of the City of Thorold. This not only aligns us with the Province but also the Niagara Region and all area municipalities. The detailed Media Release from the Mayors and Regional Chair has been posted on our website (www.thorold.ca) and social media feeds (@thorold.ca).

This decision did not come lightly , but took into account several factors.

We must continue to take steps to protect the health care and essential workers who are working so hard to keep us all safe.

The Health and Safety of our Community remains the number one priority and you have a role to play.

If you are returning home from outside of Canada, including the United States, it is not an option: you must self-isolate for 14 days.

We need to “STAY HOME THOROLD” other than essential trips to the grocery store, pharmacy or for take-out food orders. We should minimize these trips and only send one family member who takes all the necessary precautions.

Stop all gatherings of more than 5 people (this includes family gatherings of extended family).

This is no time to go to parks, playgrounds, take your kids to playdates or host parties and family get-togethers. This is especially important with the various

upcoming religious observances. Please remember, the Provincial Government on March 30, 2020, ordered all outdoor recreational amenities closed.

Social distancing, at least 6 feet apart, is critical when going out for a walk or walking your dog.

Washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds on a regular basis is crucial.

Continue helping those in need of assistance with food runs, medications, etc. by getting their supplies while respecting social distancing recommendations. Our food banks need our support and please thank those on the front lines (health care workers, municipal service workers, fire and emergency services, NRP, EMS, truck drivers, courier services, grocery store staff, pharmacies, waste management collectors, bank tellers, bakers and others).

There is no doubt this crisis will have an impact on our economy and we take it seriously. Together with the Region and all area municipalities, we are already taking steps to address this through the Economic Rapid Response Team. You can be sure that we will take all appropriate actions to ensure our economy rebounds as fully and quickly as possible.

Niagara's economy is unique in the Province of Ontario due to our proximity to the border and how reliant we are on tourism/service industry dollars. Rest assured that we will be working closely with our Federal and Provincial partners to ensure that we actively advocate for Niagara and the City of Thorold's best interests, for all businesses, regardless of what sector they fall under.

Please remain calm, this is not a time to panic, listen to the messaging laid out by all levels of government. The sooner we heed the message, the sooner our lives will return to normal. We are all in this together and I have full confidence in our Community to rise to the challenge ahead of us, as we have many times in the past. By heeding the messaging we will emerge stronger and more united than ever!

Sincerely,
Terry Ugolini
Mayor, City of Thorold