



WAHTA MOHAWKS

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2020.12.03

To all Wahta Businesses

The transmission of COVID-19 in the surrounding area continues to grow, as does the need for us all to ensure we exercising as much caution and due diligence in ensuring we do our part to protect the community. The businesses in Wahta have done a great job in keeping safe during these difficult times and on behalf of Council I want to thank you and your staff for all your efforts to date.

With the situation worsening now is not the time **for any of us to** ease up and let our guard down. It is critical we continue to adhere to, and enforce, all recommended protocols. Without listing all protocols communicated by the regional Health Unit, I do wish to highlight a few of the critical ones pertinent to workplaces and businesses:

- Ensure your workplace has a **Compliance Officer** (designate one staff person for each shift) to monitor the implementation of a COVID-19 safety plan and to ensure all required and recommended occupational health and safety and infection prevention control measures are also followed by **customers and staff**. The staff person should report any infractions to their manager or employer.
- Ensure active screening occurs for all staff attending the workplace each day and ensure any staff with symptoms are immediately excluded from work and encouraged to self-isolate and seek testing.
- Ensure physical distancing of at least 2 meters is adhered to throughout the workplace and business, including during lunch and other breaks. Where this is not possible, ensure physical barriers, such as Plexiglas, are utilized to avoid direct close contact between individuals. This also may involve limiting the number of customers in you premises at one time in order to allow for this distancing.
- For all indoor premises, please ensure the use of face coverings that covers the nose, mouth, and chin. A face shield alone is not considered an adequate covering of the face. Staff going out on to the floor for restocking, etc need to be protected with and mask, a face shield added would be beneficial.
- Ensure supplies are provided to everyone for adequate hand hygiene, including the supply of 60-90% alcohol-based hand rub.

- Take appropriate infection prevention and control measures such as environmental cleaning of all areas accessible by the public.

For details on all required and recommended protocols please ensure you review all related information distributed by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and any additional requirements required by the *Occupation Health and Safety Act*.

We know that your business is your livelihood and the livelihood of your employees, but please be mindful that there could be the need to close community businesses for a period to limit transmission of the virus. In making any such decision in the future, Council will consider the direction of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, our own Emergency Control Group, and any other immediate and serious safety issues that may arise like we saw earlier this year during the previous short notice shutdown.

Council will not jump to any decision to do a shut down lightly and endeavor to provide as much notice as possible to all businesses should this action look as though it may need to occur again.

All your work really does make a difference. Again, we will work to keep you informed about what is going on and of course please let us know if you have any questions. You can reach me directly at 705-528-9468.

Let's really focus on safety protocols now as we watch the situation around us. Again, thank you for all the things you have done during these tough times to protect the community. Your efforts are recognized and greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Franks', written in a cursive style.

Philip Franks
Chief