

# LUCAN BIDDULPH

# DISCOVER

EST. 1999

ph. 519.227.4491 fx. 519.227.4998 [lucanbiddulph.on.ca](http://lucanbiddulph.on.ca)

## Lucan Biddulph Community Update #7

Today, the Province of Ontario along with the County of Middlesex declared an Emergency. Following this, the Township of Lucan Biddulph called their Community Control Group together which is activated during emergencies. The Group consists of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Senior Staff, Fire Chiefs and representatives from EMS, County, OPP and Health Unit. At the meeting today, it was agreed that the Township would follow the Province and County and declare a state of emergency as well. What does this mean?

The Township's emergency management plan says an emergency can be declared due to "any situation or impending situation caused by the forces of nature, an accident, an intentional act or otherwise that constitutes a danger of major proportions to life or property. These situations could threaten public safety, public health, the environment, property, critical infrastructure and economic stability." The provincial law that allows municipalities to declare emergencies also gives them broadly defined powers to deal with the crisis. The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act allows municipalities that have declared emergencies to undertake actions and make orders that are needed to ensure the protection of life, civil order and property during the emergency.

Tonight's Council meeting will continue as scheduled and will be streamed on Facebook Live on the Township's Facebook page due to the need for social distancing there will be limited seating in the gallery. A summary of the meeting, will be posted online as well following the meeting.

We would like to remind residents that the situation changing frequently as to what is open/closed/ cancelled. Please follow our Township or Discover Lucan Biddulph Facebook pages or check the Township's website for updates. The Township Office is asking that residents call the office for any questions and if needed, to make an appointment to attend the office. Residents are encouraged to use online banking or use the dropbox at the side of the building to drop off any bill payments.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and if residents have any concerns to contact their doctor's office or access Telehealth Ontario 1-866-797-0000. As always in case of emergency call 911. For more information on the virus, current situation and advice, access the Middlesex-London Health Unit at [www.healthunit.com](http://www.healthunit.com)



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## Province of Ontario Emergency Declaration

Today, the Government of Ontario announced that it is taking decisive action by making an order declaring an emergency under s 7.0.1 (1) the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. In doing so, Ontario is using every power possible to continue to protect the health and safety of all individuals and families.

"We are facing an unprecedented time in our history," said Premier Ford. "This is a decision that was not made lightly. COVID-19 constitutes a danger of major proportions. We are taking this extraordinary measure because we must offer our full support and every power possible to help our health care sector fight the spread of COVID-19. The health and wellbeing of every Ontarian must be our number one priority."

As a result of this declaration and its associated orders, the following establishments are legally required to close immediately:

- All facilities providing indoor recreational programs;
- All public libraries;
- All private schools as defined in the *Education Act*;
- All licensed child care centres;
- All bars and restaurants, except to the extent that such facilities provide takeout food and delivery;
- All theatres including those offering live performances of music, dance, and other art forms, as well as cinemas that show movies; and
- Concert venues.

Further, all organized public events of over fifty people are also prohibited, including parades and events and communal services within places of worship. These orders were approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and will remain in place until March 31, 2020, at which point they will be reassessed and considered for extension, unless this order is terminated earlier.

Ontario is also investing up to \$304 million to enhance the province's response to COVID-19.



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