



### Staff Report

**Report Title: Emergency Management Update (17)**

**Prepared By: Emily Dance, Clerk**

**Department: Clerk**

**Date: Apr. 19, 2021**

**Report Number: CLK-2021-04-39**

**File Number:**

**P03-COV20**

#### **Attachments:**

---

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information Report Number CLK-2021-04-39 prepared by Emily Dance, Clerk AND FURTHER approves that staff members that can work from home do so and that Council meetings remain virtual until October 1, 2021 when it will be re-evaluated AND FURTHER THAT the municipal office and the HUB be open by appointment only until further notice SUBJECT to any additional safety precautions that may arise.

#### **Background:**

##### Province of Ontario

On April 7, 2021 the province declared a [third province wide State of Emergency](#). This emergency is valid for up to 14 days and can be extended once for another 14 days, any additional extension will be required to receive approval by the Legislature.

They also issued a province wide [Stay at Home Order \(Regulation 265/21\)](#) that came into effective Thursday April 8, 2021 and announced that the order is intended to be in place for at least four weeks. The order requires everyone to remain at home except for essential purposes as set out in the order.

This is in addition to the "Emergency Brake" and province wide 28 day "shut down" that was put in place April 3, 2021.

##### Grey Bruce Health Unit

On April 14, 2021 the Grey Bruce Health Unit declared a critical threshold of COVID-19 cases in Grey Bruce and noted that "if we do not implement drastic measures at this juncture, the pandemic will spiral out of control."

In the release they asked for the public to help. "Everyone across Grey Bruce needs to consider themselves a carrier for the next 48 hours until we reach all case and their contacts. It is a priority that everyone stay at home except for essential travel. If contacted by public health, be prudent in following any direction that is given. This is in addition to the Provincial Stay-At-Home Order."

### **Discussion:**

The Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) met on April 14, 2021 following the press release from the Grey Bruce Health Unit.

The MECG enacted extra precautions to help prevent and slow the spread of the COVID-19 in the community during the declared Critical Threshold of COVID-19 cases in Grey -Bruce.

All municipal facilities were closed to the public for 48 hours while staff continued to serve residents remotely.

The Huron Landfill was directed to be closed on Friday April 16, 2021 and Saturday April 17, 2021.

On April 15, 2021, Fire Chief Chris Cleave issued a total burn ban for the entire Township of Huron-Kinloss and for the response area within the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh serviced by the Lucknow & District Fire Department as a way to protect our first responders and to limit their contact with COVID-19 and the COVID-19 variants of concern. As well to support the Grey-Bruce Public Health Unit's preventative measures and the Province of Ontario's Stay-at-Home order(s).

As reported verbally at the April 7, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting the MECG made the following recommendation: THAT the MECG recommends that staff members that can work from home do so and that Council meetings remain virtual until at least the end of September when it will be re-evaluated. AND that the municipal administration office and the HUB be open by appointment only until further notice.

Staff will continue to monitor the pandemic and provide updates the website, deliver news releases, social media posts, electronic newsletters and hard copy newsletter to keep the residents informed on the pandemic and any modifications to services.

### **Financial Impacts:**

The financial impacts related to the pandemic are not known at this time.

### **Strategic Alignment / Link:**

We are an accessible community by being open and transparent.

### **Respectfully Submitted By:**

Emily Dance, Clerk

### **Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer