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**MARCH 25, 2020**

**2020-08**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Zorra COVID-19 Update #8**

### **NEWS**

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and members of senior staff continue to participate in a daily teleconference with Southwestern Public Health and member municipalities from Oxford and Elgin counties. As well, conference calls are being held daily with all Township staff and members of Council to continue a flow of information to all. Oxford Mayors and CAO's are also holding daily calls to share local information and best practices.

There are no new updates as of noon today. The Township would like to reiterate the following messages:

The Province of Ontario released a list of essential services that may remain open for a two-week period commencing on March 25, 2020. The Township has interpreted our services to be essential and will remain operational during this period with reduced levels of service and precautions in place.

Township parks remain open and playground equipment has not been closed off. However, please be aware playground equipment is not sanitized and we cannot guarantee that is free from the COVID-19 virus. We strongly urge caution before using this equipment in light of the equipment not being disinfected.

The building department will be limiting the types of inspections that will be completed. Call the office or visit our website for full details.

As a reminder, entry to the Municipal Office will be by appointment only. All recreation facilities are closed to the public until further notice.

Anyone who wishes to conduct in-person business is advised to phone 519-485-2490 and discuss their needs with a customer service representative. Callers will be directed to online services if available, or offered other options as appropriate.

If staff deem that an in-person visit to a Township Office is required, callers will be asked questions regarding their travel and health history prior to booking an appointment. Visitors with confirmed appointments should be prepared to show identification upon arrival.

The Township is also implementing enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures at all Township facilities. In addition, staff who have travelled internationally recently will be requested to self-quarantine.

The Township recognizes that these changing service levels may present a challenge to some citizens, however we would not take this action if we did not believe it was in the best interest of the community.

## **BACKGROUND**

Located in the heart of southwestern Ontario, Zorra Township has a population of approximately 8,400 people in a rural/urban setting. The Township comprises several rural clusters and two serviced villages. Zorra's vision is for a vibrant, prosperous, engaged and environmentally conscious community that evokes pride in residents for its accomplishments and continuing resilience as it forges the future.

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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