



COVID-19 Response as of March 31, 2020

Joint Statement #1 from the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula AND the Peninsula Family Health Team

Over the past two weeks, the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed the way we live, work, socialize and interact with our family and friends. Many of our day-to-day routines have been curtailed in the interest of working to keep our community healthy.

The Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula and the Physicians of the Peninsula Family Health Team acknowledge that these are difficult and frightening days for many of our residents.

We have joined forces to ensure that we are able to regularly provide an update to our community on action plans to keep COVID-19 from sweeping through our community.

Starting today, and on every subsequent Tuesday and Friday, we will provide what we hope will be an informative, factual update with news you can use about how your community, your municipality, and your health care system is preparing to battle the pandemic. More frequent updates will be added when required.

The Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula has a Community Emergency Management Committee with resources to support the additional services that may be needed in our community.

The Physicians have been working closely with Grey Bruce Health Services. We are planning for the potential for hospital resources to be saturated at which point we will need alternate facilities to accommodate ill patients. As you can imagine, the creation of a temporary hospital setting will require additional supports, equipment, personnel and services, all of which will need to happen in a very short period of time. In the coming days we will put a call out for volunteers from the community where appropriate and necessary. This is where we will truly see our community come together!

The Physicians and staff at the Family Health Team have worked together with the hospital and the Golden Dawn Nursing Home to find creative ways to provide excellent care for each of you through our clinic system and through the hospital when necessary. We know that it is strange to find locked doors at our health care facilities. As you may know, the locked doors are a reminder that you need to call ahead as this allows staff to prepare for arrivals with the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE.) Please know that, although the doors may be locked, there are committed healthcare professionals working diligently in these facilities providing essential care to those who are unwell.

Seniors, we know that you are concerned about your risks with this illness. While it is true that you are at risk, your best defense is self-isolation/social-distancing especially from younger family members who may have contacts outside your home. Additionally, we are seeing concerning numbers in younger age groups in Canada and the USA. We all must be vigilant. Stay home if you are sick. Call the clinic if you are uncertain, or use the Ontario Public Health online self-assessment tool for COVID19.

We want to thank every one of you for the social distancing (2 metres + folks!) and self-isolation/quarantine you are doing. You will never know how many lives you saved. From self-isolating after your out of country return, to the person pumping your gas, to the grocery store clerk packing your food items – your actions today can help save others in our community from becoming ill.

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO LET UP – what you do today makes a difference to the numbers of ill in 1-2 weeks because that's how long the virus takes to cause illness once you've come in contact.

Continue to wash your hands often, 20-30 seconds with soap, and clean frequently-used surfaces well too. (resource: Health Canada COVID19)

Continue to avoid social gatherings and groups outside your own household. Continue to connect using distance means – phone, facetime, webcasts on your preferred platform. Support and be kind to one another.

We can do this, but we need to each do our part to ensure the Bruce Peninsula stays healthy! Let's have the lowest patient and staff COVID19 infection rates in all of Ontario!!

Milt McIver, Mayor

Dr. Elaine Blau, Lead Physician