



BULLETIN
COVID-19 Bulletin #2
March 13, 2020

The COVID-19 virus continues to spread globally and in response the County of Renfrew continues to take the necessary steps to inform, and protect our staff, their families, and our community. While there are no confirmed cases in Renfrew County, that will likely change. The County of Renfrew (COR) Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in collaboration with The Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) continues to monitor the situation closely and take proactive measures to limit the risk to our employees, their families and our community.

This notice is intended as a general notice #2 to all employees at the County of Renfrew. COVID-19 Situational Reports and specific guidance information for Paramedic Services will continue from Chief Mike Nolan and Commanders of Paramedic Services. Special Notices for Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge employees will continue from Shelley Sheedy, DLTC.

1. WORK RELATED TRAVEL

Effective Immediately: The County of Renfrew has made the decision to postpone and/or cancel all work related travel outside of our region (Eastern Ontario) for all staff. If you have questions regarding this or any other travel related issues please see your supervisor/manager for details.

2. PERSONAL TRAVEL

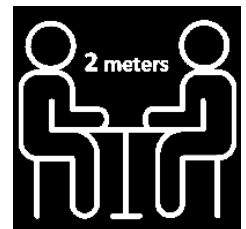
Effective Immediately: Staff of the County of Renfrew must notify their supervisor or manager that they have travelled outside the region PRIOR to returning to work.

PLEASE NOTE: When you return, it is important to [self-monitor](#) your health for a minimum of 14 days after returning to our region. You may be asked or required to [self-isolate](#), depending on the current circumstances.

The County of Renfrew is recommending to staff that they take significant precautions when travelling (i.e. March Break) outside of the region (Eastern Ontario). It is important to [check your destination](#) before you leave to know the risks and to be prepared.

If you have travelled outside Canada, you can reduce the risk of spreading infection by following [prevention measures](#) when returning to Canada.

Please practice social distancing, for instance one to two meter distancing and avoiding shaking hands, or embracing. Social distancing helps slow the spread of the virus and helps elevate pressure on our healthcare systems.



3. WHAT IS THE COUNTY OF RENFREW DOING?

Facilities

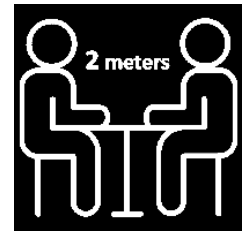
1. “Attention Visitor” signs have been placed at all County of Renfrew building entrances notifying visitors who are symptomatic and/or recent travel to affected areas to delay their visit and contact Telehealth.
2. “Prevent the Spread” tips have also been posted at all County of Renfrew building entrances and high traffic areas internally.

3. "New" - Proper hand washing and use of hand gel instructions have been posted in washrooms and sink areas internally in County of Renfrew buildings.
4. We have given specific direction to our Janitorial Contractors to ensure door handles, counters, washrooms, etc. are prioritized for increased disinfection.
5. Disinfectant wipes have been provided at counters, and office areas. Employees are encouraged to disinfect frequently contacted surfaces at least twice daily. Hand sanitization stations and bottles continue to be available throughout buildings and high traffic areas.
6. Both of our Long Term Care Homes are screening anyone including employees, visitors, contractors, volunteers, etc. They must enter through the front entrance door. During open hours, there is an employee there to screen, asking key questions about travel and symptoms.

Planning

1. We are working closely and in cooperation with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit.
2. We are working closely with our own Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees to reinforce and support staff communications.
3. Senior Leadership and others have been meeting and/or working daily to review and monitor the status of COVID-19 and any impacts on our County work force, and operations.

4. Where possible, we would like to discourage face-to-face meetings where a phone, conference call or web (Skype) conference could be used instead. Please practice social distancing, for instance one to two meter distancing and avoiding shaking hands, or embracing. Social distancing helps slow the spread of the virus and helps alleviate pressure on our healthcare systems.



5. We are reviewing our Business Continuity Plans to ensure that we are able to provide our essential services in the event of a local outbreak.
6. We are building a Pandemic Response Plan specific to COVID-19.
7. We are closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 and will routinely update you in further bulletins on the measures and strategies and policies we are putting in place to limit the spread to our employees, their families and the public.

4. What you need to know to help you and your family stay healthy!

PLEASE NOTE: It is important to [self-monitor](#) your health for a minimum of 14 days if you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19. You may be asked or required to [self-isolate](#), depending on the current circumstances.

The Ministry of Health has developed an information sheet about how you can protect yourselves and what to do if you think you have contracted the 2019 novel coronavirus.

<https://files.ontario.ca/moh-coronavirus-info-sheet-english-2020-02-18.pdf>

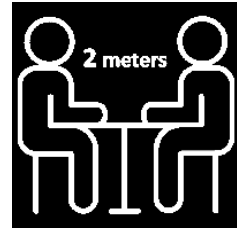
<https://files.ontario.ca/moh-coronavirus-info-sheet-french-2020-02-18.pdf>

Stay home when you are sick.



Don't come to work if you have a cough, fever or cold symptoms. Self-monitor and self-isolate if you have any of these symptoms. Notify your supervisor/manager.

Please practice social distancing, for instance one to two meter distancing and avoid shaking hands, or embracing. Social distancing helps slow the spread of the virus and helps alleviate pressure on our healthcare systems.



Please refer to Bulletin #1 dated March 6 2020 available on the INTRANET for a reminder of additional prevention and preparation tips in the event of quarantine mandate. <https://www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca/en/secured/county-staff.aspx#COVID-19-Bulletins>

If you suspect you have symptoms of COVID-19, call TeleHealth Ontario for medical advice at 1-866-797-0000 (TTY 1-866-797-0007) or Renfrew County and District Health Unit at 613-735-8654 ext. 577 (Toll-free 1-800-267-1097). Be sure to mention your symptoms and your travel history, including the countries visited. **Notify your supervisor/manager, and you may be asked to complete a self-disclosure form.**

If you are ill and must visit a health care professional, call ahead and tell them that you have a respiratory illness. You may be asked to wear a mask while waiting for or receiving treatment to prevent the spread of illness. If you need immediate medical attention, call 911 and mention your travel history and symptoms.

This is a rapidly evolving situation that is no doubt will continue to raise some fear and concerns. You are encouraged to resist allowing fear to overwhelm and instead, plan, prepare, prevent, and **SPREAD THE GOOD HABITS!**

More information notices to follow.



Resources:

[The 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#), Ontario Ministry of Health

Photo Source: ccohs.ca

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#), Public Health Ontario

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Outbreak update](#), Government of Canada

[Flu and Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#), Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

[World Health Organization](#), Global Health Information

Stay Healthy!

Paul Moreau and Senior Leadership Team
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