

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 21, 2020**



## **Information Bulletin No. 10: COVID-19**

**Wasaga Beach** – The following is a statement from Mayor Nina Bifulchi.

“There was encouraging news from Premier Doug Ford during his daily press briefing on Monday.

The premier stated ‘The modelling clearly demonstrates that we are making progress in our fight against this deadly virus.’

But Premier Ford was quick to point out that everyone must continue to do their part. You can read more about his remarks [here](#).

At the Town of Wasaga Beach, we continue to focus on service delivery for our community.

As part of our operations, we are providing regular COVID-19-related updates through information bulletins.

Other tools we are using to communicate with you include e-newsletters, video messages, social media, radio spots on Max FM, and additional forms of material on our dedicated COVID-19 page [here](#).

As we have said throughout the pandemic, we have closed town facilities to the public but staff are on site working.

As an essential service, we believe it is imperative that staff report for work in order to provide public services.

We also know that working on site is the best way to protect our corporate data and your private information.

We are extra-sensitive to cybersecurity because the town suffered a serious debilitating ransomware attack in 2018.

While we have beefed up security since the attack, and are following best practices, the fact remains that off-site work poses a greater cybersecurity risk.

Essential workers are reporting to work all over the province, including municipalities. If grocery workers, truck drivers, hospital staff, and pharmacy staff must report for duty

during this crisis, we need our municipal staff to show up as well. Every day, as the head of council, I join staff at town hall and carry out my role as your mayor.

But we realize safety is vital, too.

That is why we have put precautions in place, as recommended by health professionals.

If those recommendations change, or different directives come from the province or federal governments, we will of course adjust our approach.

Since the start of this crisis five weeks ago, we have rooted our decision-making in science.

From the early days of the pandemic, to ensure the safety of our staff, we implemented a self-screening process.

Every day, when staff arrive at town facilities, they must complete a questionnaire.

If they meet all of the stipulations, they can report for work.

If they do not pass the self-screening questionnaire, they must go home and follow the proper health protocols.

Inside our buildings, we practice physical distancing at all times.

Staff are spaced out and in many cases working one-to-an-office.

Some staff are working shifts, allowing for fewer people on site.

Others are working shifts to meet parental and family obligations at home. We realize now is a challenging time and flexibility helps.

We use Zoom technology for meetings.

And we have stepped up our cleaning of all facilities.

Those staff that must be off, or choose to be off, are able to leave and we welcome them back when the pandemic is over.

On behalf of council, I am extremely proud of our dedicated employees.

Our staff have stepped up to ensure we have continued fire protection, safe drinking water, responsible handling of public money, and web-based programs for residents at home, and much more.

Ultimately, our plan is to keep services running and staff safe.

We are also laying the groundwork for when the pandemic is over. We want to ensure our community development momentum continues. This pandemic will end and I believe Wasaga Beach will hit the ground running.

In preparation, our planning and building staff continue to process applications. While we cannot issue permits, we will be ready for when restrictions are lifted.

You can learn more about town operations on our COVID-19 information page [here](#).

You will find earlier bulletins, links to video messages, and an array of helpful content on the site, which we update regularly.

I also encourage you to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for information about town services.

We are all in this together.”

Mayor Nina Bifulchi.

**Health information resources:**

**Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit**

[Click here](#)

**Ontario Ministry of Health**

[Click here](#)

**Town of Wasaga Beach  
Facilities – updated April 8, 2020**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Arena</b>	<b>Closed – all programs and rentals cancelled</b>
<b>RecPlex/YMCA</b>	<b>Closed – all programs and rentals cancelled</b>
<b>Youth Centre/Seniors Active Living Centre</b>	<b>Closed – all programs and rentals cancelled. Some virtual programs on Facebook.</b>
<b>Town Hall</b>	<b>Closed to the public – but staff onsite and working during regular business hours. Monday to Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>Closed – all programs and rentals cancelled</b>

<b>Public Works</b>	<b>Closed to the public – but staff onsite and working during regular business hours.</b>
<b>Transit</b>	<b>Operational – Free service, until further notice</b>
<b>Fire Halls</b>	<b>Closed to the public – but staff onsite and working during regular business hours. 9-1-1 services operational.</b>
<b>Parks and Trails</b>	<b>Parks closed except for walk-through access. Playground equipment is off limits. Municipal trails are open.</b>
<b>Community Garden</b>	<b>Closed.</b>

**For media requiring additional information, please contact:**

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