



March 21, 2020

To all Malahide Residents,

Earlier today, Malahide joined our neighbouring Municipalities in declaring a State of Emergency. Malahide actively participated in the joint decision-making process and considered taking this action carefully based on the many services that we share and coordinate with our neighbours.

Today, we concluded that we should be adding this Statement to our toolbox, to complement the measures already in place in Malahide. We made this decision because the joint declaration of the State of Emergency is: Enabling the Municipality to access pools of funding related to COVID-19 which may be put in place; Protecting volunteers, Staff, and Council through increased legal support and WSIB access; Enabling better use of our Staff by avoiding duplication of efforts; as well as, Increasing awareness to COVID-19 and the importance of caring for one another.

We want to reassure you that this is a pro-active measure. It does not reflect any material change to the situation at hand in Malahide.

As of this morning, our area does not have any confirmed cases of COVID-19. But we all know someone who has been laid off, or someone who has had to significantly reduce or shut down their business. Even more challenging is how we are unable to comfort one another through our usual means of gathering, worship, or meal sharing. This is hard on all of us.

Still, we know that our community has the resilience, creativity, and compassion to get through this together. As we do so, let's remember:

- Take the situation and the directives seriously.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly. Avoid touching your face. Sneeze into your sleeve.
- Keep your distance at all times: two meters (six feet). This is NOT the time to have children come together to play or for family gatherings.
- Do stay healthy and active: Go outside! If you are well, it is safe and good to spend time outdoors. You can enjoy the outdoors by maintaining the required distance and avoiding contact with any surfaces (do not use playgrounds).

Let's all continue to do our part. The Staff and Council remain available over the phone, email, and social media. Any questions or concerns, just reach out. Stay informed through the [Southwestern Public Health website](#), or the [Malahide website](#) and the [Elgin County website](#) or local updates.

We are grateful for everyone's continued cooperation.

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