

# STAY HOME. STAY SAFE.

## City of Côte Saint-Luc's response to COVID-19

March 18, 2020

I want to speak to you about the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. Take this pandemic deadly seriously. Listen to the advice of health authorities. If they tell you to self-isolate for 14 days after returning to Canada, do it. Your city is taking all precautions to keep the public and its staff safe.

### Take this pandemic deadly seriously

If we follow the practices of South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, we can minimize the spread. If we delay reacting, which unfortunately happened in Italy, we will run out of ICU beds. In Milan today, physicians are being forced to decide whether to keep someone on a respirator or give it to someone with a better chance of recovery.

This is why our governments are closing schools, bars, gyms and movie theatres. That's why we have closed our facilities to the public.

Please, listen to the experts. If you're at home, please don't have visitors. When you bring someone into your home, it's like you're bringing in all the people they interacted with. Avoid gatherings of any size. Religious institutions must follow the lead of schools and use technology to connect to their congregants. Any person carrying this virus can infect many others because coronavirus can live on a door knob or other metal surface for several hours, or even days. Stopping public gatherings will save lives. To young people, I urge you to avoid meeting up with friends. This will save lives. To those who have planned birthday parties or other celebrations, please cancel them. This will save lives.

### Actions we have taken in response to COVID-19

- ▶ We are imposing a 14-day preventative isolation for any employee who travelled by air before March 13, 2020 (or if a member of their household did so).
- ▶ We are telling our staff to avoid future travel—especially air travel.
- ▶ We have stopped sending staff to all in person conferences or training.
- ▶ We are encouraging staff who can work from home using telecommuting tools to do so as much as possible.
- ▶ For those that cannot, we are introducing more flexible schedules to help them avoid the busiest periods on public transit.
- ▶ We have increased cleaning of high-touch surfaces like door handles and bathrooms to help minimize the risk for staff.
- ▶ We closed the public library and recreation facilities indefinitely as of March 12, 2020, and City Hall, Public Works, and Public Safety Building as of March 16, 2020 as a social distancing measure.
- ▶ We will also be asking all residential buildings to close common areas such as pools, fitness rooms, and party rooms.
- ▶ We will send information to seniors' residences to ensure they get the information they need.

### Alternative ways to get service

- ▶ We are encouraging the public to use online services such as paying tax bills through online banking or mailing their cheque to the P.O. Box listed on the bill, and permit requests using our online permit tool. Staff are available by phone and e-mail and will develop alternate ways to serve the public.
- ▶ City Council meetings are closed to the public and will be available as a live stream. The public can ask questions before the meeting at [questionperiod@cotesaintluc.org](mailto:questionperiod@cotesaintluc.org).

### What can you do to prevent the spread of illness?

You can help prevent the spread of all viruses, including coronavirus, and other infectious illnesses with just a few simple hygiene habits.

- ▶ Wash your hands often with soap under warm running water for at least 20 seconds.
- ▶ Use an alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available.
- ▶ Practice proper cough and sneeze etiquette:
  - Cover your mouth and nose with your arm to reduce the spread of germs.
  - If you use a tissue, dispose of it as soon as possible and wash your hands afterwards.
- ▶ If you are sick, avoid contact with more vulnerable people, including older adults and people who have a chronic disease. For example, avoid visiting older adults at their homes.
- ▶ Avoid direct contact when you greet someone, such as shaking hands, and use alternative ways to greet people.

The good news is if we take these steps, the cases of new infections will go down. This gives scientists time to develop, test, and produce an eventual vaccine. We can resume life as it was once a vaccine arrives, or when the public health authority says it is safe to do so. But for now, we need to be smart and be safe.



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