

City playgrounds, skate park, dog parks closed until further notice

March 27, 2020 — As the City, residents and businesses continue to pull together to curb the spread of COVID-19, further measures are being enacted to limit any possible transmission of the virus.

Effective immediately City playground equipment will be closed to the public. The City had already posted signage on equipment warning that playgrounds are not sanitized and pose a transmission risk. Playground equipment will be taped off by the end of day, March 27, and signs will be updated to note the closure. Temporary fencing will be installed over the coming days.

The decision to close the equipment underlines the City's continued commitment to protecting the health of its residents. The public is reminded the City's skate park at Seymour-Hannah Sports and Entertainment Centre and City sports fields remain closed.

"We understand this is a difficult time for everyone and that parks and playgrounds provide an outlet for children, but right now we have to put their health, and that of the greater community first," said Mayor Walter Sendzik, adding, "no one is invincible and we all have a role to play to limit exposure to the virus. It is important that residents stay home as much as possible, including children."

While playground equipment, such as swings, slides and play structures, remain closed City parks are still open to the public for passive use such as walking or jogging. Residents should always maintain safe physical separation to limit transmission of COVID-19. Individuals should remain two metres or six feet — about the length of a hockey stick — apart at all times. Physical distancing, alongside regular hand washing, disinfecting of surfaces and abstaining from touching the face remain the most significant ways all members of the community can reduce the risk of the virus spreading to themselves and others.

For more information on City closures, service disruptions and delivery of essential services visit www.stcatharines.ca/COVID19. For more information on COVID-19 and related public health information visit www.niagararegion.ca/COVID19.

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