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## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2020

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### Next two weeks crucial in slowing down COVID-19: Warden

Leeds and Grenville residents must be vigilant with physical distancing, self-isolating if they have travelled, and continue to do their part to curb the spread of COVID-19.

"Now is the time to double down to help prevent the spread of this virus," United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Warden Sayeau said, citing provincial health expert modelling numbers released by Premier Doug Ford which show 3,000 to 15,000 could die in the province.

"The next few weeks are crucial. We can save lives if we make extra efforts to stay home and follow the federal, provincial and Health Unit directives. Stay home. Stay safe," Warden Sayeau said.

The Warden's comments followed a Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) meeting Monday. COVID-19 updates were heard from Leeds and Grenville OPP officials, Fire Service, Counties Paramedic Service, Community and Social Services, Finance, Public Works departments and the Maple View Lodge long-term care facility.

Critical services continue to be maintained by the Counties throughout the outbreak. Emergency daycare centres have now opened in Brockville and Kemptville for frontline emergency first responders, including paramedic, police, fire and healthcare service workers. This service may be expanded depending on demand, according to Counties CAO Andy Brown.

Maple View Lodge, located in Athens, is reporting a respiratory illness outbreak. Four residents and three staff members were tested for COVID-19 with results pending for all but one of those cases. Results from one resident came back negative.

"We're taking full precautions," Mr. Brown said, noting Maple View has been following all guidelines and has been screening staff entering the facility.

The Leeds Grenville Paramedic Service, a critical service provided by the Counties, is working with the Brockville and Leeds Grenville COVID-19 Assessment Centre. The service is sending two paramedics to provide support seven days a week. The Assessment Centre is located at the Brockville Memorial Centre, 100 Magedoma Boulevard, Brockville. Appointments are made by referral only.

Leeds Grenville is preparing to roll out its portion of the Ontario Government's Social Services Relief Fund to help protect the health and safety of the most vulnerable people during the outbreak. Leeds Grenville

where **lifestyle**  
grows good **business**

synonyme de **qualité de vie**  
et de **réussite** en **affaires**

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is receiving \$1.55-million of a total \$148-million announced by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Mr. Brown said Community and Social Services staff is looking at where to direct the funds to help the largest number of people. [Learn more](#)

The local Municipal Emergency Control Group is reminding residents of Canada's Quarantine Act. Canada is making unprecedented use of the federal Quarantine Act in a bid to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. **All travellers returning to Canada are now legally required to go into self-isolation for 14 days.** The legislation contains a wide range of penalties for those flouting the law. Maximum penalties include a fine of up to \$750,000 and six months in jail.

As we approach Easter, the Counties is asking everyone to respect and follow proper protocols – good hygiene practices, physical distancing, no gatherings, reduced travel, and staying home.

MECG is scheduled to meet again next Tuesday, April 14, or sooner if required.

Visit the [Counties webpage](#) to learn more about continuation of Counties services. Subscribe to a [Special COVID-19 Business Support webpage](#).

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