



NEWS RELEASE  
March 26, 2020  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PERTH COUNTY, TOWNSHIP OF PERTH SOUTH, TOWNSHIP OF PERTH EAST AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF WEST PERTH ALL DECLARE STATES OF EMERGENCY**

PERTH COUNTY, ON – On March 26, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Perth County Warden Jim Aitcheson, Perth South’s Mayor Bob Wilhelm, Perth East’s Mayor Rhonda Ehgoetz and West Perth’s Mayor Walter McKenzie have officially Declared a State of Emergency for their respective Municipalities in response to COVID-19.

“The decision to declare an emergency is not taken lightly,” says Warden Aitcheson. “Perth County is being proactive in our fight against COVID-19 to protect the health and safety of individuals and families.”

Declarations of emergency are made under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act when an emergency requires immediate action to prevent, reduce or mitigate a danger of major proportions.

The declaration was made for the following reasons:

- It can raise awareness of the seriousness of COVID-19 and demonstrate to their residents that the municipality is taking the current situation seriously, and is taking every step that they can to protect them from the threat;
- A declaration of emergency provides the Head of Council the authority to take actions or make orders, which are not contrary to law, in order to protect the inhabitants in the area of the emergency;
- To protect volunteers that may be called to assist;
- To preserve the rights of the Municipality for future compensation should it become available; and
- To ensure the organization can quickly respond to other unforeseen events should they arise.

“This morning the County of Perth along with the Townships of Perth South and Perth East and the Municipality of West Perth made the mutual decision to declare emergencies in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic,” said Warden Aitcheson.

All municipalities will continue to monitor the situation closely and will be making all appropriate changes as necessary.

Stay up to date on COVID-19 by visiting the Huron Perth Public Health Unit website:  
[www.hpph.ca/en/index.aspx](http://www.hpph.ca/en/index.aspx)

All municipalities urge residents to stay home, to practice physical distancing, and to practice proper hygiene protocols outlined by the Provincial Medical Officer of Health: [www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus).

Follow the Public Health Agency of Canada Outbreak Update: [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html)

You can also obtain information from the Municipality's websites:

<https://www.perthcounty.ca/en/doing-business/business-resources.aspx>

[www.perthsouth.ca](http://www.perthsouth.ca)

<https://www.pertheast.ca/en/municipal-services/emergency-management.aspx#>

<https://www.westperth.com/en/my-west-perth/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx>

#### MEDIA CONTACTS:

Meredith Forget

County of Perth

Manager of Economic Development and Tourism / Emergency Information Officer

519-301-1962

[mforget@perthcounty.ca](mailto:mforget@perthcounty.ca)

Rebecca Clothier

Township of Perth South

Treasurer/Deputy Clerk/Administrator

519-271-0619 Ext. 227

[rclothier@perthsouth.ca](mailto:rclothier@perthsouth.ca)

Theresa Campbell

Township of Perth East

Chief Administrative Officer

519-595-2800 Ext. 232

[tcampbell@pertheast.ca](mailto:tcampbell@pertheast.ca)

Jeff Brick

Municipality of West Perth

Chief Administrative Officer

519- 348-8429 Ext. 225

[jbrick@westperth.com](mailto:jbrick@westperth.com)