

City of Cambridge
**PANDEMIC TIMELINE
AND RESPONSE**

2020



FEBRUARY 4

- Small working group at the City forms to discuss pandemic plans and potential outbreak

MARCH 5

- First local case of COVID-19

MARCH 9

- Regional Pandemic Control Group forms to guide the community-wide pandemic response in five areas: health, community support, critical infrastructure, municipalities and communications

MARCH 11

- World Health Organization declares 2019 Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 a global pandemic

MARCH 12

- City activates Emergency Operations Centre
- City creates dedicated pandemic response team
- Launch of cambridge.ca/COVID-19 to share timely information with the public

MARCH 13

- Public Health recommends the first in a series of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19

MARCH 15

- Municipally-run cultural and recreational facilities close to the public
- In-person Council, Standing Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee meetings are suspended
- Child Care centres close

MARCH 17

- Province of Ontario announces Declaration of Emergency
- All municipal facilities close except for emergency and essential services
- City implements a virtual workforce and redeploys staff to essential services
- Ward 7 By-election is postponed (originally scheduled for March 23)

MARCH 24

- Provincial Government orders the mandatory closure of all non-essential workplaces
- Region of Waterloo and the area municipalities announce Declaration of Emergency in accordance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act
- Economic Response Plan launches for immediate relief actions to support local residents, businesses and workers during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Dedicated INVEST Cambridge webpage launches to support local businesses
- Virtual Council meetings begin

MARCH 25

MARCH 27

- Business and Economic Support Team of Waterloo Region (BESTWR) is created in aid of local businesses



APRIL 1

- Provincial Government issues emergency order to close all outdoor recreational amenities
- City closes playgrounds, sports fields, dog parks, basketball and tennis courts, skateboard parks, park shelters and outdoor exercise equipment
- All municipal-affiliated festivals and events are canceled

APRIL 2

- #RecFromHome online program launches to encourage residents to be active from home
- Facebook page dedicated to 50+ Recreation Centres and an Instagram account for Cambridge Youth launch

APRIL 12

- Bylaw team expands to educate and enforce public health restrictions under the Emergency Act

APRIL 16

- City Council approves cost containment plan for the City to help manage costs and offset lost revenue

APRIL 17

- Essential City-led infrastructure construction is granted allowance to continue, while non-essential capital projects put on hold
- Ambassador Team increases presence and cleaning efforts in Core Areas
- Parks, trails, roads and sidewalk maintenance continues

APRIL 22

- #OrderFrom Home resource page and #DineFromHome crowd-sourced map launch to support local restaurants and businesses

APRIL 23

- WOW Social for older adults launches to include phone and online outreach

APRIL 27

- Ontario announces framework for reopening the province in three stages - Ontario enters Stage 1
- City staff implement a targeted clean-up blitz across the city; annual community spring clean-ups are canceled due to gathering restrictions

MAY 1

- #ShopFromHome online campaign launches – offering online shopping, curbside pickup and delivery options

MAY 4

- Community Care Gardens permitted to reopen

MAY 14

- Municipalities relax rules in City parks and open spaces
- Access to municipal parks and open spaces is permitted for some recreational purposes with physical distancing and public gathering limits (includes individual activity, and visitors can bring chair/blankets for sitting)

MAY 19

- City Council approves additional relief and support for residents and businesses

MAY 20

- City reopens skateparks, Riverside bike park, disc golf, basketball courts, soccer fields, tennis courts, volleyball courts, pickleball courts, dog parks and picnic shelters
- Residents can again use picnic tables, benches or shelters, in parks or recreational areas

MAY 28

- Business Outreach Survey launches to gather feedback on impact of pandemic on Cambridge businesses

- JUNE 2**
 - City launches “Cambridge 2020: Local History of a Pandemic” archive project
- JUNE 10**
 - Ontario government permits outdoor dining services to open
 - City introduces streamlined process for business owners to expand restaurant patios and outdoor dining areas to support local businesses and encourage outside dining
- JUNE 12**
 - Region of Waterloo moves to Stage 2 under the provincial reopening framework
- JUNE 15**
 - First floor of City Hall reopens to the public for customer-related services
- JUNE 19**
 - Online Cambridge Celebration of the Arts premieres on City’s Facebook and YouTube channel
- JUNE 27**
 - Cambridge Farmers’ Market safely reopens to the public under new guidelines
- JULY 1**
 - Canada Day celebrations and fireworks display held virtually on City’s Facebook and YouTube channel
- JULY 4**
 - John Dolson and Ed Newland public swimming pools reopen for swimming lessons and recreational swimming with strict protocols
 - Three of the City’s largest splashpads at Forbes Park, Riverside Park, and Churchill Park open with splashpad supervisors
- JULY 6**
 - Region of Waterloo Council adopts mandatory mask bylaws
 - Sports fields reopen for team practices
- JULY 13**
 - Region of Waterloo moves to Stage 3 of provincial reopening plan, allowing for the indoor dining, gyms and fitness facilities, as well as playgrounds, libraries and other community facilities
 - Face covering bylaws in effect for transit and indoor public settings
 - Modified City summer camps start with focus on outdoor play and smaller camp sizes including recreation camps, specialty arts camps, and online camps throughout the summer
 - John Dolson Centre reopens
- JULY 17**
 - All 65 City playgrounds reopen
- JULY 28**
 - Filming resumes in Cambridge
- AUGUST 14**
 - The City receives \$3,069,100 in provincial/federal funding as relief for loss of revenue and incurred pandemic costs
- AUGUST 17**
 - Mayor Kathryn McGarry, City Manager David Calder and City Councillors virtually attend the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference
- AUGUST 25**
 - City begins planning for potential second wave of COVID-19 pandemic





Stay the
course
#cbridge

