



CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

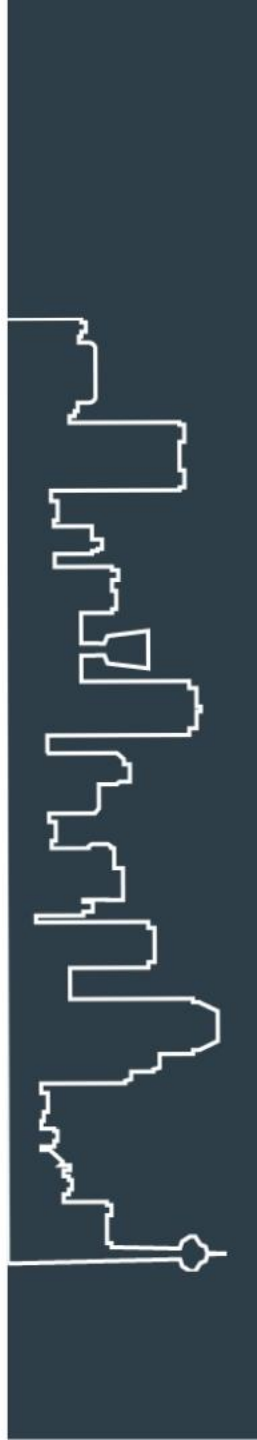
March 20, 2020 Update

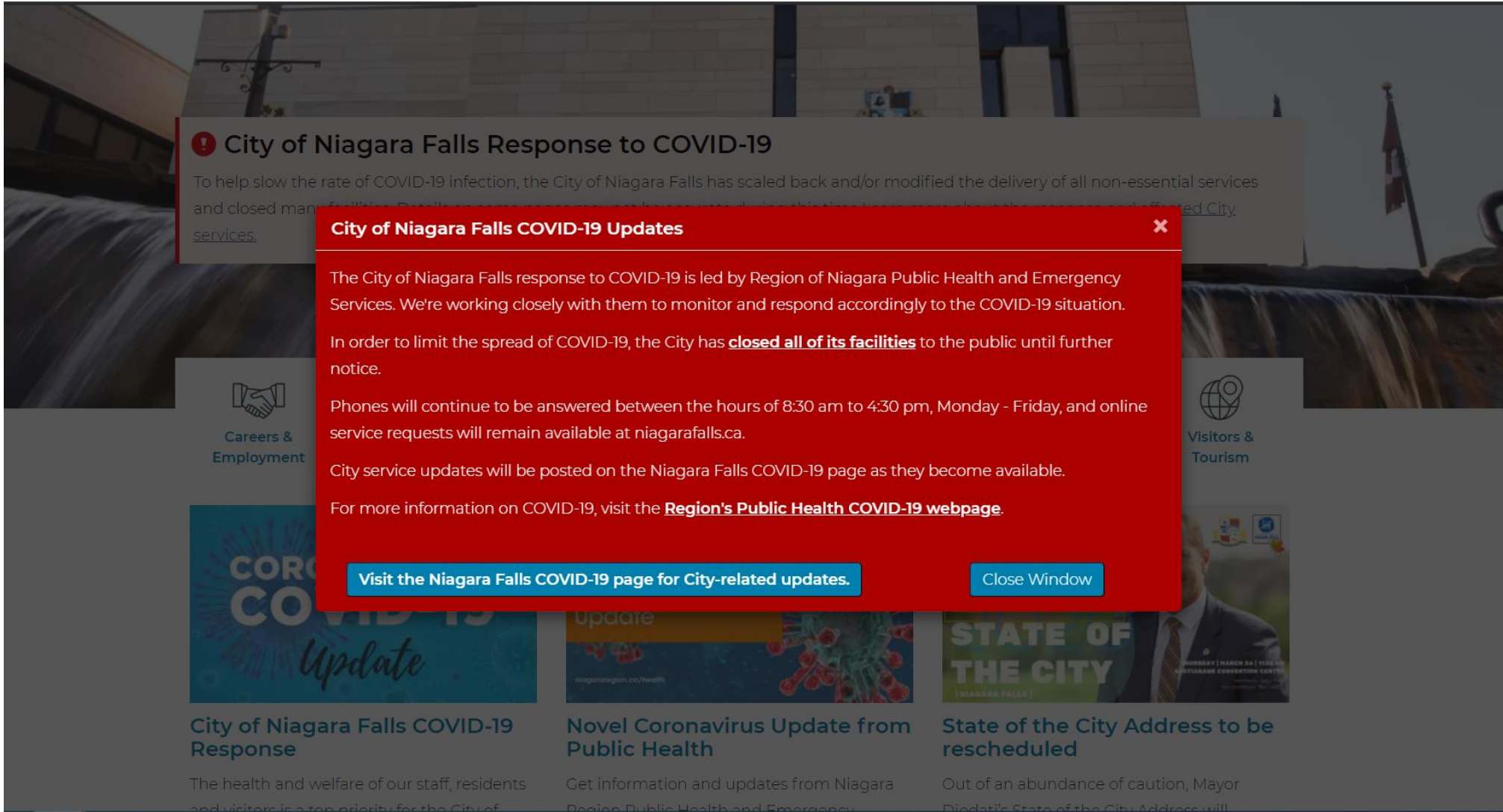


Emergency Operations Centre

- Activated Friday, March 13 at 10:00am.
- The Emergency Control Group is meeting twice a day.
- A dedicated COVID-19 section has been developed on niagarafalls.ca, including:
 - Updates on the City of Niagara Falls response efforts.
 - FAQ on City services, with specific details on impacted areas.
 - Community resources information.
 - Newsroom featuring City news, Niagara Region Public Health, Provincial Government and Federal Government media releases.
 - To date, four Media Releases have been issued by the City, along with daily social posts and shares from the City.
- Daily meetings with Regional CAO's group.
- Niagara Region COVID-19 stakeholders teleconferences.

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! City of Niagara Falls Response to COVID-19

To help slow the rate of COVID-19 infection, the City of Niagara Falls has scaled back and/or modified the delivery of all non-essential services and closed many facilities. Details on some pages may not be accurate during this time. [Learn more about the response and affected City services.](#)

⚠ Weather Warning

Home > COVID-19 Updates > FAQ on City Services

Search Niagara Falls

Contact Info

[Fire Department](#)
905-356-7521 ext 2203

COVID-19 Updates

- [COVID-19 Niagara Falls](#)
- [Community Resources](#)
- [Facility Closures](#)
- [FAQ on City Services](#)
- [Newsroom](#)
- [Niagara Region Public Health](#)
- [Public Health Resources](#)

FAQ on City Services

Listen

- ▶ Arenas, Museums, MacBain and Coronation Centres
- ▶ Bids and Tenders
- ▶ Building Permit Applications
- ▶ Building Inspection Services
- ▶ By-law Municipal Enforcement Services
- ▶ City Council Meetings
- ▶ Claims to the City

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Essential Services

- Fire Services
- Transit
 - The following reduction in Niagara Falls Transit service must be undertaken due to an impending lack of manpower and in the best interest of operations and public safety:
 - **Effective Thursday, March 19, 2020:**
 - Niagara Falls Transit will remove All City PEAK service (30 minute service during AM and PM periods) on regular routes 101-114.
 - **Effective Sunday, March 22, 2020:**
 - Niagara Falls Transit will be reducing weekday service to a Sunday schedule, operating hourly, 7am to 9pm until further notice.
 - WEGO will be providing WINTER level service, operating the Red Line from 7am - 11pm, and the Blue Line from 7am to 9pm until further notice.
 - Chair-A-Van will be providing trips on a reduced schedule to currently registered riders only. We are advising registered riders to call St. John's Ambulance at 905-357-0122 for more information about how this affects them.

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Essential Services ... CONTINUED

- Burials
- Water & Sewer Emergency repairs
- Water Meter Sales to support building occupancy
- Road Condition Inspection
- Major Road, Pothole and Trench repairs
- Winter Maintenance
- Forestry Emergencies
- Fleet Emergency and Essential Services Support
- Building Permit Inspections
- Capital Project Continuance

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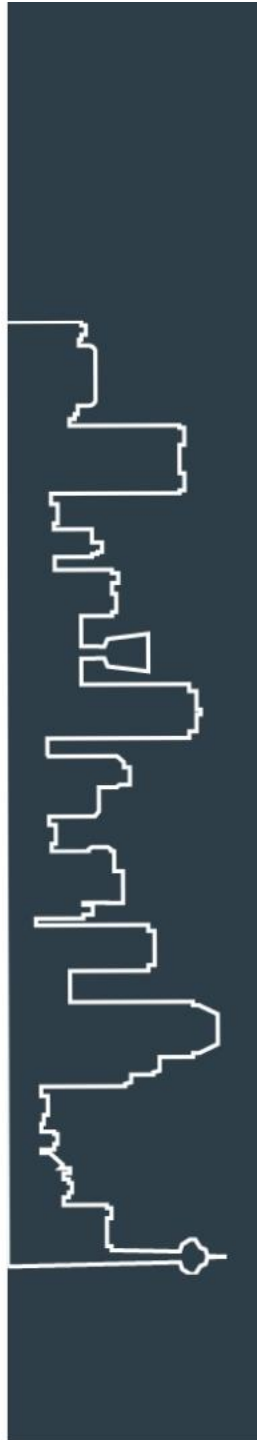
Additional Service Delivery Steps Taken to Date

- All City of Niagara facilities closed to the public as of March 16th
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of all City facilities, vehicles and Transit buses.
- Waiving of noise bylaw restrictions to accommodate deliveries to services such as grocery stores and pharmacies.
- Reduced hours at the Transit terminal.
- City staff are working in teams on a rotating schedule.
- Inspection and enforcement staff are taking City vehicles home and working from their vehicles, electronically.
- Switchboard is manned on a rotating basis during the day and using After Hours Service in the evenings
- In Parking and Traffic Enforcement, the number of Commissioners has been reduced and are only addressing safety issues, not ticketing, or issuing penalties.
- Postponement of Water Meter Replacement Program

NEXT STEPS (TO BE REVIEWED AND UPDATED FOR APRIL 6TH)

- Transit service level reductions and rear door entry to buses only (effective Monday, March 23, 2020).
- Warning signs on our parks playground equipment and the dog parks to indicate that sanitizing is not being done on gates and structures.

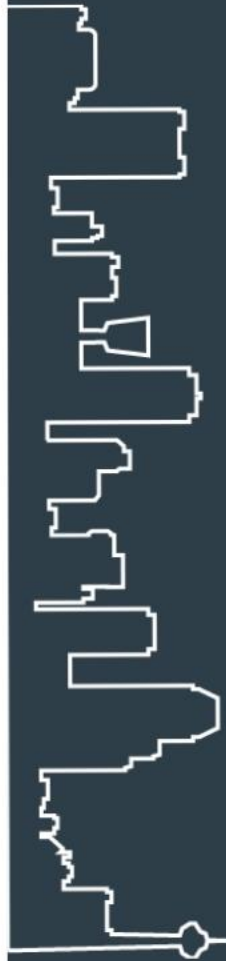
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Financial Impacts to Date

- 60%- 80% reduction in transit ridership and subsequent reduction in fare revenue and gas tax allocation
- Cost of additional cleaning products, and their application by professionals, at City facilities and for City vehicles
- Cost of sanitizing and applying Microban antimicrobial products to buses
- Funding assistance for Out of the Cold to provide full day occupancy until further review on April 9th
- Loss of arena and rental revenues
- Cost of suspending contracts

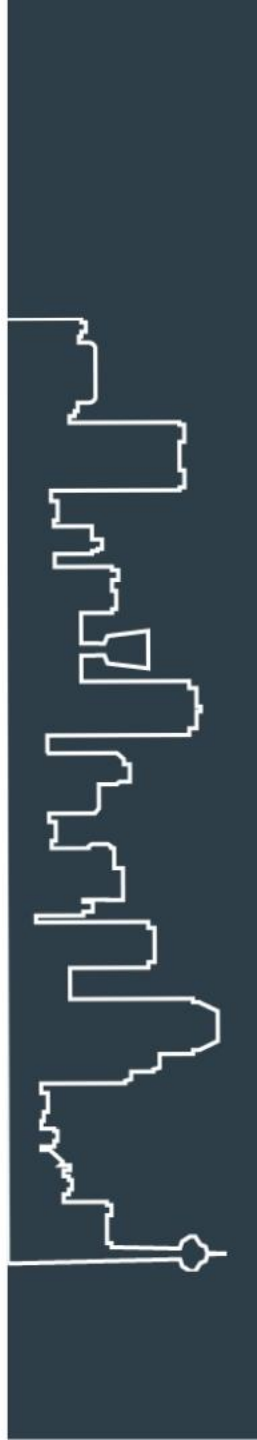
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At Risk Sources of Funding

- Gas Tax revenue
- Ontario Lottery & Gaming (OLG) payment reductions due to Casino closures
- Interest and penalty revenues
- Reduction in commercial tenant revenues
- Reduced MAT tax collection

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Budget Stabilization & Opportunities

- Lower gas prices
- Curbing non-essential purchases i.e. furniture, equipment and supplies
- Eliminating conferences and travel for 2020
- Deferral of filling job vacancies and new positions until July 2020
- Request payment schedule revisions to remitting deadlines to the School Boards and Niagara Region
- Reduce OLG payment to Niagara Region Police (NRP) for service level reduction as the Casino is closed

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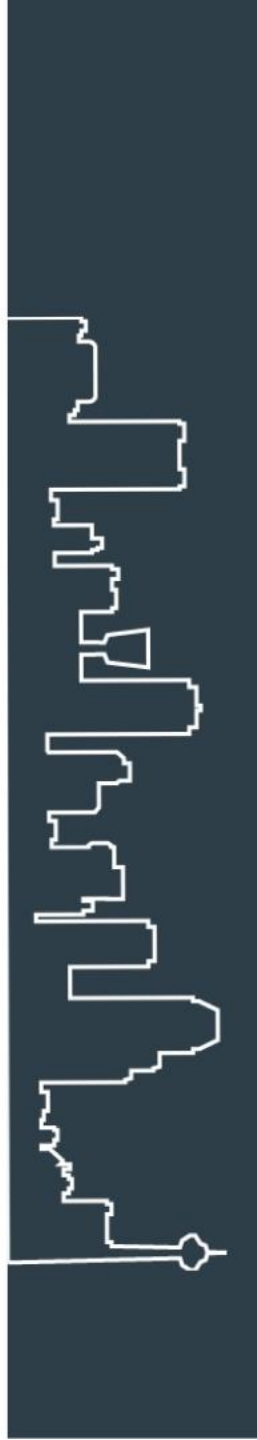


Payment Relief Measures

- Waive penalty charges for current year taxes (billed in 2020) until June 30th
- Waive penalty charges for current year water bills (billed in 2020) until June 30th
- Waive penalty charges for current year accounts receivable (billed in 2020) until June 30th
- Continue to process Pre-Authorized Payments (PAPs) for taxes and water
- No penalties for ratepayers for withdrawing from PAPs until June 30th
- No NSF charges for payments that are returned until June 30th
- No disconnection of water services to June 30th

*These measures can be revisited prior to June 30th to determine whether further measures are required.

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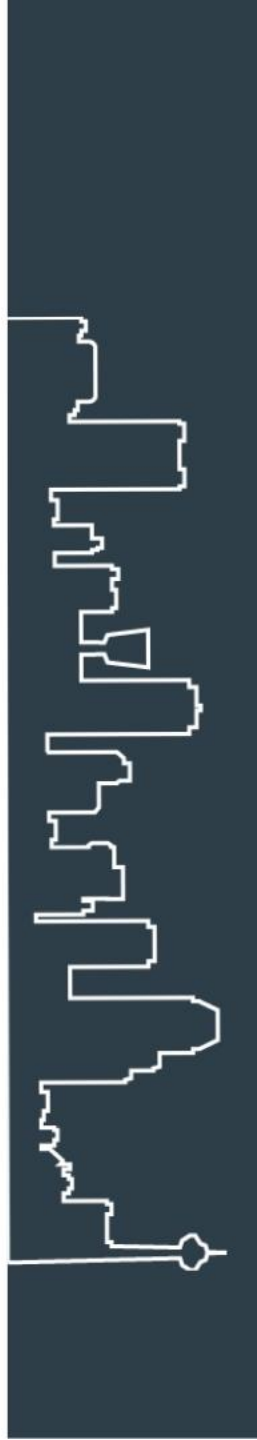
Niagara Economic Rapid Response Team

- A joint effort announced by Niagara's Mayors and Regional Chair to support local businesses impacted by COVID.
- Comprised of professional economic development staff across Niagara's municipalities who will go beyond municipal boundaries, working together to respond to the changing needs of local business and employers.

The Rapid Response Team is currently:

- Working together to survey business needs.
- Advocating on behalf of Niagara's business community and help keep business going.
- Compiling information about federal and provincial support programs that have been announced for businesses and employers.
- Considering adjusting local business programs in response to changing needs.

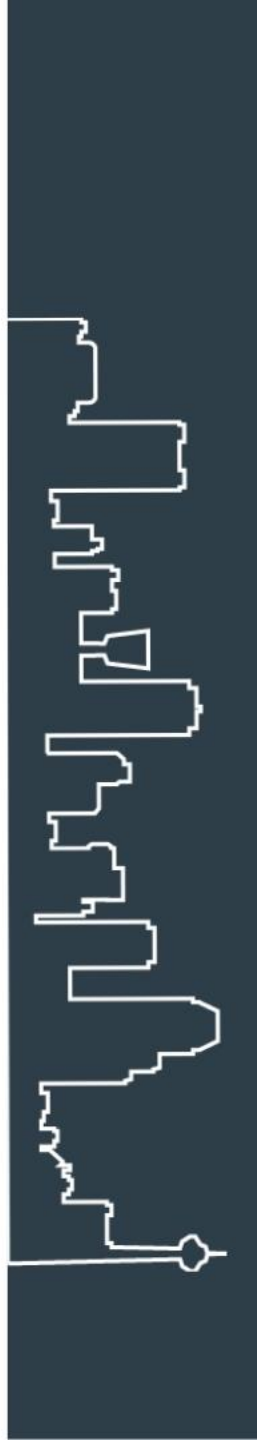
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Delegation of Authority Bylaw

- A Delegation of Authority Bylaw is used when City Council deems that certain routine administrative and legislative powers are of a minor nature, and the delegation of these powers to staff would contribute to the efficient management of the City while still adhering to the principles of accountability and transparency.
- A Delegation of Authority Bylaw is on the agenda for Council's consideration.
- Delegated Authority is to the Mayor and CAO jointly.
- This Delegation of Authority Bylaw ends when the emergency ends.

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Electronic Meetings

- The *Municipal Emergency Act, 2020* gives municipalities the ability to fully conduct Council, local board and committee meetings electronically when faced with local and province-wide emergencies, empowering the government's municipal partners to respond quickly when in-person meetings cannot be held.
- Members of councils, local boards and committees who participate electronically in open and closed meetings, may be counted for the purposes of quorum. Use of this emergency provision will be at each municipal council's discretion.

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Summary of Recommendations

Staff recommend that:

- Council endorse the COVID-19 response measures already implemented by staff.
- The payment mitigation measures outlined in this report be approved.
- The Delegation of Authority Bylaw be approved.
- The Bylaw amending the Procedural Bylaw allowing for electronic meetings be approved.

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