



**SMITHS FALLS**

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**MEDIA RELEASE  
STATE OF EMERGENCY UPDATE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 15, 2020

**Smiths Falls lifts restrictions for municipal assets  
following Stage 3 announcement**

**Smiths Falls** – In response to the province of Ontario’s announcement of Stage 3 reopening, the Town of Smiths Falls is pleased to announce the lifting of restrictions for the use of municipal assets.

“As much as we are excited about moving to Stage 3 and the additional liberties this brings, we must remember and respect what has made this possible. We have done the hard work to get us here, and now it’s up to all of us to ensure that the spread of COVID-19 continues to decline,” said Smiths Falls’ Mayor, Shawn Pankow. “We must continue to wear our masks indoors in public spaces and to keep within our social circles. We are all relying on each other to take personal responsibility for ourselves, our families, and our community.”

On July 13, the province of Ontario’s announced the Stage 3 re-opening of most businesses in Ontario. The newest changes in restrictions applies to nearly all businesses and public spaces in Ontario.

In Smiths Falls, outdoor play structures and outdoor fitness areas will reopen as of Friday, July 17. Smiths Falls’ Community Services staff are reviewing safety protocols for the opening of the water trampoline at Murphy Park and the Smiths Falls Public Library, and are expected to finalize a plan for reopening at some point next week.

The daycare centre located at St. Francis de Sales Catholic School will be able to expand capacity beginning next week. To register for a space at the daycare please

Box 695, 77 Beckwith St. N., Smiths Falls, Ontario K7A 4T6  
Phone: 613-283-4124 Fax: 613-283-4764 Website at [www.smithsfalls.ca](http://www.smithsfalls.ca).

email Judy Arthur at [jarthur@smithsfalls.ca](mailto:jarthur@smithsfalls.ca) or call 613-284-8425 for registration information.

As of Friday, team sports will also be able to resume, including soccer, baseball, ball hockey and basketball, with certain restrictions. Games and practices must have no contact, and leagues must have a maximum of 50 participants. Groups must contact Community Services at 613-283-4124 ext. 6103 or ext. 6105 to book space and discuss plans to resume activities.

While the Smiths Falls Memorial Community Centre is permitted to reopen under Stage 3; Community Services staff are in the process of reviewing protocols with public health and will be reaching out to user groups to review plans. Day camps will be operating out of the facility beginning the last week of July.

The walking track is currently unavailable for public use.

**Use of any of these locations is permitted so long as physical distancing of at least two metres is maintained at all times for those outside of your household.**

As part of the Stage 3 reopening, indoor gathering limits have also increased from 10 to a maximum of 50 people, and outdoor gathering limits will increase to a maximum of 100 people. These numbers are subject to physical distancing requirements.

The requirement to wear a mask while in an enclosed public space remains in effect.

It's anticipated that the province will remain in Stage 3 for some time, pending the production of a vaccine or treatment to combat COVID-19, or the elimination of cases in the province. As the COVID-19 situation changes, additional restrictions could be introduced or changed at any time.

The Town of Smiths Falls' Emergency Control Group will continue to provide updates to provincial orders as changes are made, and the Community Emergency Management Coordinator will continue to work in conjunction with the Leeds Grenville Lanark District Health Unit.

### **Face masks mandatory in enclosed public spaces**

As of July 7, 2020, the use of face coverings in enclosed spaces has been deemed mandatory by the Leeds Grenville Lanark Health Unit. Visitors to any indoor municipal spaces will be required to wear a mask that conforms to Health Unit guidelines.

According to the Health Unit a face covering or mask must securely cover the nose, mouth, and chin. Exceptions to the requirement for a face mask include people who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, children under two years old, or those who require accommodation in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

For more information visit the **Health Unit website:** [www.healthunit.org/coronavirus](http://www.healthunit.org/coronavirus)

### **Stop the spread of COVID-19**

As the province moves forward with Stage 3 of the provincial re-opening, there are actions both residents and businesses can do in order to keep themselves, and others safe, including:

- Staying home when feeling unwell.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Observing physical distancing rules and maintaining at least two metres between yourself and others at all times.
- Being patient and following store procedures to maintain physical distancing.
- Wearing a cloth face covering indoors or when maintaining distance is difficult.
- Practicing good hand hygiene, carrying hand wipes or hand sanitizer at all times.

The Town of Smiths Falls offers resources for businesses and residents on its **COVID-19 resource page** at <https://www.smithsfalls.ca/public-safety/covid-19-coronavirus/>

Businesses requiring additional information for re-opening guidelines can call the province of Ontario's **Stop the Spread Business Information Line** at 1-888-444-3659.

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For further information, please contact:

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#### **Shawn Pankow**

Mayor

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