



**MEDIA RELEASE
STATE OF EMERGENCY
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March 16, 2021

**Smiths Falls takes proactive measures to curb the spread of COVID-19;
community centre to close effective March 17**

Smiths Falls – The Town of Smiths Falls, in consultation with the Leeds Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit (LGLDHU), is making changes to municipal services in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

“We have seen an alarming increase in COVID-19 cases within our community in recent days, and we must take steps now to protect our vulnerable populations and stop the spread,” said Smiths Falls’ Mayor, Shawn Pankow. “We currently have 36 active cases in our health unit region, which is more active cases than at any point in the pandemic.”

In an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Town of Smiths Falls is announcing the closure of the following municipal facilities beginning Wednesday, March 17, 2021:

- Smiths Falls Memorial Community Centre (including the walking concourse)
- Smiths Falls Youth Arena
- Smiths Falls Public Library

The Smiths Falls Memorial Community Centre (including the walking concourse) and Youth Arena will remain closed for the season.

The vaccine clinic located in the Community Centre will remain open to those with appointments. As the ice is being removed, the dry floor of the arena will be available to public health to expand vaccination services. For more information please refer to healthunit.org/covid-19/vaccine.

The Smiths Falls Public Library will move back to offering reduced services. In-person browsing and use of public computers and photocopiers will not be permitted. Curbside pick-up will be available during this time.

Materials can be requested from the Smiths Falls Public Library through the online catalogue at smithsfalls.insignails.com/Library/Home, by email at smithsfallslibrary@vianet.ca, or by telephone at 613-283-2911. The book drop-off at the Elmsley St. entrance will remain open and materials can be returned at any time.

Town of Smiths Falls' staff and Council members will remain available and can be reached by email or telephone. A staff directory and contact information can be found on the Town of Smiths Falls' website at smithsfalls.ca/get-in-touch.

"We understand that one year into this pandemic, people are growing weary of the public health restrictions necessary to keep our community safe. With the significant rise in confirmed cases locally, we know we must be more vigilant than ever and lowering our guard will lead to higher case counts, hospitalizations and potentially deaths. We all must do our part," said Pankow.

For additional information about COVID-19 please contact the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit at 1-800-660-5853 or visit their website at healthunit.org/coronavirus.

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For further information, please contact:

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