

Subject: COVID Update May 2021

To: Council

From: Chief Administrative Office

Report Number: 2021-145

Meeting Date: May 25, 2021

Recommendation:

That Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-145 be received for information.

Purpose:

This CAO generated report is provided as a follow up to the COVID-19 pandemic update that was provided to City Council on April 26, 2021.

Background:

The City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 13, 2020 by bringing together the City's Emergency Control Group (ECG). The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the nation and the City continues to prepare, respond, and plan recovery from the impacts of the pandemic to the municipality. As described in a previous staff report, the City's response is based on four principles:

- Maintaining essential City services to the community throughout the emergency;
- Continuing to ensure the safety and security of the public and City staff;
- Ensuring the organization remains financially stable throughout COVID-19; and
- Continuing to remain consistent in the City's actions with the actions of other agencies.

In order to respond appropriately to the impacts of the pandemic and adhere to these principles, the City's response has been divided into three phases:

- First phase – initial response and precautions for users and staff
- Second phase – maintaining essential services
- Third phase – recovery and reopening

Currently, the City is in the third phase, recovery and reopening, as staff continue to execute plans that were developed for reopening the City's programs, services, and facilities.

Discussion:

At the time of preparing this update report to Council, the Provincial Government has extended the shut-down period and stay-at-home order that were mentioned in the previous report to Council. The extension will ensure that these measures remain in place until at least June 2.

Essential city services continue to be provided without interruption but with some precautions in place to protect residents and staff. It is expected that the City's summer facilities and amenities such as beaches and the marina will be able to open, with precautions in place, once these orders are lifted on June 2. Staff continue to prepare for the planned opening.

Financial Implications:

The Corporate Services Department has identified plans to implement trimester based financial reports to City Council. The Trimester 1 Report scheduled for the first Council meeting in June will provide an update on COVID-19 financial implications for the first 4 months of the year and projected for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Public Engagement:

The City continues to provide high-quality communication to the community by giving frequent updates of City initiatives and sharing information from other agencies such as the Federal government, the Provincial government, and the Region of Niagara and Niagara Region Public Health.

Conclusion:

The City's Emergency Control Group continues to meet during the pandemic to make operational decisions for the City's programs and services in order to maintain essential operations within the community. Staff will continue to report to Council for the duration of the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Luey
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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.