COVID-19 Community Response Suggestions from Several Ward 1 Village Associations

Note: Several Ward 1 Community Associations were canvassed for ideas regarding responses to the COVID-19 pandemic without any filters about who or what level of government would be the most appropriate.

- Make EMS an essential service [A Provincial Decision].

- April, May and June property taxes be pushed back to start again in July and for those paying but are late, waive the late payments.

- Place ALL capital projects on hold.

- Request that Caledon Community Services (CCS) be available for transporting seniors and vulnerable free of charge to supermarkets during "senior only" hours.

- Encourage the School Board’s information technology staff to encourage teachers to participate online to support students.

- Determine if there is sufficient funding to provide all the extra needs required to keep people safe.

- Determine what supermarkets and drugstores deliver to the smaller towns in our Ward, i.e. Caledon Village, Belfountain, Inglewood, Alton, etc. and places in between.

- Canvass all known caterers in Caledon to determine their availability to prepare meals for delivery or pickup.

- Consider using the various Village based residents groups as a means of communication.

- Request that the number of people permitted to congregate at this time be lowered to 20 or less.
• Purell be made available to seniors.

• That there should be weekly calls to people to make sure they are okay, especially those living alone.

• Families should be made aware of how long the virus remains active on various products; whether it is wood, plastic, metal, cloth etc. on a park bench or jungle gym in a park.

• That first responders, doctors and nurses always have the required equipment to protect themselves when responding to a call.

• A more organized community response to get food/medication delivered to vulnerable persons. A way to process these orders and deliver them to be left outside for these vulnerable people (without having any contact).

• More messaging on appropriate shopping behaviour.

• More messaging on:
  
  o Stay home! Stay home! Stay home! Unless absolutely essential.
  o Teens/young people should not be going to each other’s houses. Now is the time for the adults to be firm. Stop the playdates. While young children do not seem to be impacted, they do get sick and get make others sick who will be more seriously impacted. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/18/health/coronavirus-young-people.html?fbclid=IwAR3Tj7778zKDsVW8fPNRfkAIStNZ_CkSXiu8ev7FS1HbIQ3Y723XhiXmM11 We’re seeing that here too.
  o Only one person from the family goes into the store.
  o Leave children at home, if possible.
  o Stay six feet back at all times.
  o More evidence emerging about surface contamination – wash hands thoroughly after touching anything anyone else has touched.
  o Avoid touching your face (by far the hardest behaviour to change)
  o Stop stockpiling. Our supply chain can handle this. There are only shortages because of the panic buying going on.
• Request the Town work with partners to remove caps on internet usage/increase bandwidth.

• Advocate to reduce hydro bills to lowest time of usage rates.

• Create a community resource for emergency supplies of needed over-the-counter (OTC medications) Coordinate with Peel Public Health.

• Consider recommending that if anyone has stockpiled masks, and people don’t need them since they should be at home, they provide them to healthcare professionals as they are in desperate need.