

Shelburne Police will be enforcing new COVID-19 restrictions

As the provincial government continues efforts to slow and control the spread of COVID-19, the Shelburne area is changing to a Red Zone due to a significant increase in local confirmed COVID cases.

“Although the timing of these additional restrictions is not favourable with the Christmas Holiday season less than two weeks away, the purpose of these measures is to protect you, your loved ones and your community”, states Sergeant Paul Neumann. “We encourage everyone to take these rules seriously and find creative and alternate ways to spread holiday cheer, and show support to their friends and family. Our health as well as the health of our families and neighbours is arguably one of the best holiday season gifts we can be thankful for.”

Shelburne Police will be investigating all concerns brought to their attention about the Reopening Ontario Act legislation not being followed. Each circumstance will be investigated on its own merits. Depending on the results of each investigation, charges may be laid on individuals, organizers of events or gatherings, or on businesses. “The resulting penalties start at \$750.00 for individuals and can climb up to the hundreds of thousands of dollars for organizations such as corporations”, commented Sergeant Neumann. “The penalties are severe!”

For a full list of limitations, please refer to the Ontario Government COVID website at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/zones-and-restrictions>. Here are some of the key restrictions that need to be kept in mind:

• Social gatherings limited to 5 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. The only exception is for people living in a single household.

• Restaurants and bars: Maximum 10 Patrons dining indoors at a time, maximum 4 patrons per table

• Sports and recreational fitness facilities: Capacity limits, where physical distancing can be maintained, with maximum 10 people in indoor areas with weights and exercise machines, maximum 10 people in all indoor classes or 25 people in outdoor classes. No spectators permitted, however each person under 18 may be accompanied by one parent or guardian

• trips outside of the home should only be for essential reasons (work, school, groceries/pharmacy, health care, assisting vulnerable individuals or exercise and physical activity)

• families should not visit any other household or allow visitors in their homes • people who live alone can gather with one household

• everyone should avoid social gatherings

• work remotely, where possible

“At Shelburne Police Service we recognize that this holiday season will be a challenging one for many. We want everyone to enjoy this time of year, but ask everyone to modify their plans to make it as safe as possible for everyone. The sooner this virus is brought under control, the sooner we can all return to a less restrictive and normal lifestyle. We encourage everyone to do their part. On behalf of everyone at Shelburne Police Service, I wish everyone in this great community a safe and happy holiday season!” concludes, Sergeant Neumann.