



John Brassard | Member of Parliament
Barrie—Innisfil
Deputy Opposition Whip

Media Release from Barrie-Innisfil MP John Brassard

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update 3

For Immediate Release March 17 – As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation continues changing rapidly, Barrie-Innisfil Member of Parliament John Brassard will provide daily updates through the media, at johnbrassard.com and on social media sites @johnbrassardCPC.

Here is a summary of the measures put in place locally, provincially and federally over the past 24 hours to help contain the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) across Canada:

- A dedicated COVID-19 assessment centre has opened in Barrie at **490 Huronia Road**. This centre will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. until Sunday, Mar. 22. However, if you have mild symptoms, self-isolate instead of attending the testing centre or hospital emergency department. If you have mild symptoms, you will likely NOT be tested.
- Emergency loans up to \$5,000 will be made available through Global Affairs Canada to assist Canadians who are abroad and having difficulty returning home. For information, call the emergency 24-7 response centre at (613) 996-8885.
- A hotline has been established for all inquiries regarding Employment Insurance claims related to COVID-19. Call **1-833-381-2725** if you have questions because you have had to self-isolate and cannot work; you are an employee or employer needing financial support through the EI work-sharing program; or you have been laid off due to COVID-19. Get more information [here](#).
- Parks Canada is suspending visitor services at all national parks and historic sites starting Wednesday until further notice.
- Entrance into Canada is currently restricted to Canadian citizens, permanent residents, immediate family members of citizens, diplomats, air crew personnel and American citizens.
- International flights are being directed to just four major Canadian cities – Toronto's Pearson International and airports in Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary. Travellers exhibiting symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) will not be permitted to board a plane headed to Canada.

The House of Commons was suspended last week and is expected to be recalled shortly to enable MPs to pass emergency economic measures relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As the local, provincial and federal governments put restrictions in place, remember that social distancing remains one of the most important things that we all must do in our daily lives, so that we can help contain the spread of the virus in Barrie-Innisfil and across the country,” MP Brassard said, urging everyone to heed the advice of Health Canada and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

Ontario's first death potentially related to COVID-19, a 77-year-old man, was reported at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre in Barrie on Tuesday. Since Thursday, March 12, there have been three cases reported in Simcoe-Muskoka - two in Barrie and one in Bradford.

“I can't stress enough how critically important it is to practise social distancing, avoid crowded places and keep at least a metre away from anyone who is coughing or sneezing,” Brassard said. “It's also important to remain calm as we work together to contain the spread of COVID-19.”

Remember these steps to protect yourself:

- Wash your hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick
- Stay at least two metres away from anyone who is coughing or sneezing
- Cough and sneeze into your sleeve
- Stay at home if you are sick

Brassard's constituency office remains closed to the public until further notice; however, staff will respond to phone calls, emails and social media inquiries. If you need assistance, call **705-726-5959** or email John.Brassard@parl.gc.ca.

If you have questions about international travel, contact the Government of Canada COVID-19 information line at 1-833-784-4397 or visit www.Canada.ca/coronavirus

The [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Promos/Novel-Coronavirus) has information on COVID-19 testing, symptoms and more: <http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Promos/Novel-Coronavirus>.

For more information, contact: Office of MP John Brassard at 613-992-3394 John.Brassard@parl.gc.ca