



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

Media Release from Barrie-Innisfil MP John Brassard
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update 11

For Immediate Release March 25 – Barrie-Innisfil Member of Parliament John Brassard is providing daily updates to residents of Barrie-Innisfil during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic through the media, at **JohnBrassard.com** and on social media sites **@JohnBrassardCPC**.

Beginning at midnight, all travellers returning to Canada – with the exception of essential workers – will be subject to a **mandatory** 14-day isolation at home, to help curb the spread of COVID-19.

Federal Health Minister Patty Hajdu made the announcement this morning and has directed Canada Border Services Agency officers to inform all returning Canadians and permanent residents to begin their two-week isolation at home immediately, without visiting friends, family members or businesses.

“This new measure will do two things,” said Barrie-Innisfil MP John Brassard. “First, it will provide clear instructions to those re-entering the country that self-isolation isn’t a choice. It is now mandatory for all travellers to stay at home for 14 days. Also, this new regulation will help to flatten the curve and protect all Canadians from the spread of COVID-19.”

The mandatory quarantine will not apply to essential workers including truck drivers and health care workers.

After a day of negotiation with all parties, an emergency financial aid package was approved by the House of Commons early Wednesday, to help Canadians and businesses that are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Every day I talk to Barrie-Innisfil residents who have lost their jobs or have had to adjust to reduced wages or working at home while they care for children no longer in school,” Brassard said. “I understand there are a growing number of people who need help and I’m doing everything I can to get that help in their hands as quickly as possible, and that includes help for the self-employed and employers as well.”

The aid package includes the new [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#) that will provide up to \$2,000 per month for four months to workers who have lost jobs. More than one million people across the country applied for Employment Insurance benefits last week and Brassard said the growing numbers are evidence that immediate help is needed.

He is, once again is reminding **ALL** Canadians about the importance of frequent hand washing and physical/social distancing.

“Stay home as much as possible and when you have to go out, it is critically important to maintain a safe distance of at least two metres away from others at all times,” he said. “Physical distancing is something everyone of us must do to help stop the spread of this virus.

Visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit for more information about self isolating. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, use the Government of Canada self assessment or call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 for advice.

On Wednesday:

- M.P. Brassard was involved in a conference call with the Ontario Caucus of the Conservative Party of Canada
- M.P. Brassard was involved in a video conference with Conservative Party of Canada Leader Andrew Scheer and the full national caucus
- M.P. Brassard spoke to many residents and employers by phone.
- M.P. Brassard spoke to suppliers looking to assist in manufacturing much needed health items
- Approximately 13,000 public service employees have been reassigned to assist with phone calls and applications relating to Employment Insurance.
- The number of COVID-19 tests being completed is now 10,000 per day.

The Ontario Government announced the following measures for employers:

- Making available \$6 billion by providing five months of interest and penalty relief for businesses to file and make payments for the majority of provincially administered taxes. Over \$1.8 billion by deferring the upcoming June 30 quarterly municipal remittance of education property tax to school boards by 90 days, which will provide municipalities the flexibility to, in turn, provide property tax deferrals to residents and businesses, while ensuring school boards continue to receive their funding. Making available \$1.9 billion by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) allowing employers to defer payments for up to six months.

Earlier this week:

- The Ontario government announced that residents and businesses in the province will be billed off-peak electricity rates for the next 45 days.
- Non-essential services across Ontario have been shut down for two weeks.
- Flights continue to retrieve Canadians stranded in countries around the world. Canadians still overseas should immediately register with Global Affairs Canada at travel.gc.ca.
- **The City of Barrie and Town of Innisfil have declared a state of emergency.**
- Businesses and manufacturers are being mobilized to boost the healthcare sector's stockpile of life-saving supplies.
- The Canada-U.S. land border is closed to non-essential travel across the land border. Restrictions do not affect shipments, trade or business.
- International flights are restricted to just four major Canadian cities – Toronto's Pearson International and airports in Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary. Travellers exhibiting symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) will not be permitted to board a plane headed to Canada.

Remember, the best way to protect yourself:

- Avoid any unnecessary contact with other people
- Stay at least six feet away from others (physical distancing)
- Remain at home as much as you can - only going out for essential needs like food and medication
- Work from home if possible
- Shop for groceries online

Brassard encourages Barrie-Innisfil residents to visit johnbrassard.com for the latest information on the pandemic and Canada's response. While his Barrie office remains closed to the public, if you need assistance call **705-726-5959** or email John.Brassard@parl.gc.ca or through social media **@JohnBrassardCPC**.