



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

## **Media Release from Barrie-Innisfil MP John Brassard** **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update 8**

**For Immediate Release March 22** – 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](http://johnbrassard.com) and on social media sites [@johnbrassardCPC](https://twitter.com/johnbrassardCPC).

With March Break over, many international travellers have returned to Barrie-Innisfil over the weekend. It is critically important for everyone to heed the warnings of public health officials and to self-quarantine and for 14 days upon arriving home.

“I understand that it’s not always easy to stay at home for an extended period of time, but it is extremely important to self-isolate for 14 days after travel – even if you are symptom-free - in order to protect all of us,” said MP Brassard. “This is serious. Self-isolation means staying home for 14 days. If you have travelled outside Canada.

“Do not shop for groceries, visit friends hang out at the park or plan playdates for your children.”

M.P. Brassard is himself in self isolation after returning home earlier than planned from a family vacation in the United States.

Canada’s Health Minister Patty Hajdu announced today that travellers who don’t follow the government’s advice to self-isolate could face criminal penalties.

Visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit for more information about [self isolating](#).

There are currently nine cases of COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka, including a Bradford West Gwillimbury woman in her late 30s, who the health unit has reported in serious condition.

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.

### **Sunday Updates:**

- The House of Commons will reconvene with 32 MPs on Tuesday at noon, to approve a multi-billion-dollar emergency economic package to support individuals, families and businesses that are struggling today and worrying about the future.
- WestJet will send 30 planes to bring stranded Canadians home from around the world and Air Transat is working with the government to arrange additional flights.
- All Canadians still overseas should register with Global Affairs Canada at [travel.gc.ca](http://travel.gc.ca)
- **Many airlines have announced suspension of services or significantly reduced service to many destinations effective March 23 for an indefinite number of weeks including Air Canada, WestJet, and Porter Airlines.**

### **M.P. Brassard on Sunday:**

- M.P. Brassard has been speaking with local business leaders in advance of the financial response package with advice on some measures they would like to see the government act on.
- M.P. Brassard spoke to Conservative Finance Critic Pierre Poilievre about the local ideas
- M.P. Brassard has been monitoring developments on Barrie-Innisfil residents who are abroad and has been in contact with some of those stranded.

### **Protecting your health:**

Follow these steps consistently to stay safe:

- Avoid any unnecessary contact with other people
- Stay at least six feet away from others
- 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

### **Earlier this week:**

- The Prime Minister announced a new plan to mobilize businesses and manufacturers to help fight the spread of COVID-19 and boost the healthcare sector's stockpile of life-saving supplies.
- New protocols were enforced on illegal border crossers arriving from the United States to Quebec. They will be turned back to the United States if they appear at the border.
- Canada and the United States have suspended all non-essential travel across our land border. This decision will not affect shipments, trade or business.
- More than 500,000 Employment Insurance applications have been filed this week, and staff is working around the clock to process requests for assistance.
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced \$82 billion in financial aid - \$27 billion in direct support for Canadian families and workers and \$55 billion in economic support for businesses across the country, in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Details are available [here](#). Anyone with questions regarding EI claims related to COVID-19 call 1-833-381-2725.
- 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.
- 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.

Brassard encourages Barrie-Innisfil residents to visit [johnbrassard.com](http://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](mailto:John.Brassard@parl.gc.ca) or through social media [@JohnBrassardCPC](#).

For more information:

Government of Canada COVID-19 information line: 1-833-784-4397 or [Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus)

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: <http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Promos/Novel-Coronavirus>.