



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

Media Release from Barrie-Innisfil MP John Brassard **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update 9**

For Immediate Release March 23 – 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**.

Ontario's state of emergency is expanding to shut down all non-essential services for two weeks starting this Wednesday, to curb the spread of COVID-19. It is expected that only essential manufacturing and supply-chain providers as well as medical offices, supermarkets, pharmacies, LCBO outlets, and takeout restaurants will be allowed to remain open after the details of Premier Doug Ford's announcement are finalized Tuesday.

Also today, The City of Barrie has declared a state of emergency. Declaring an emergency provides the City with additional powers and resources to protect the health and safety of Barrie residents and streamlines the decision-making process for expediency through the City's Emergency Control Group. This declaration aligns with the Government of Ontario's Declaration of Emergency made March 17, 2020.

"This will be another difficult adjustment for businesses and everyone in Barrie-Innisfil, but it is a necessary step in order to contain this virus and keep people safe," said MP Brassard. "All levels of government are working together to do everything we can to stop the spread, and we need residents to continue doing their part."

Brassard participated in a video conference call on Monday with Barrie-Innisfil MPP Andrea Khanjin, Innisfil Mayor Lynn Dollin, Councillors, community and business leaders in Innisfil. That was followed by a conference call with the Leadership Team of the Conservative Party, in advance of tomorrow's special meeting of Parliament and a one on one call with Innisfil Mayor Lynn Dollin and spoke to several business owners in the riding. Brassard also did a local media interview on the critical need for everyone to work together stop the spread of the virus.

He is reminding ALL Canadians about the importance of frequent hand washing and social distancing.

"If you have returned from travel outside the country, I implore you to self-isolate for the recommended 14 days," Brassard said. "Everyone else needs to stay home as much as possible – and we need to practice social distancing, more specifically **physical distancing**, at all times – maintain a safe distance of at least two metres from other people when you are away from home."

In his address this morning, the Prime Minister said to all Canadians, 'Go home and stay home.'

M.P. Brassard, himself in self isolation is encouraging Barrie-Innisfil to lead the rest of Canada in their commitment to stay home and put the safety of others and the community first.

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.

Monday Updates:

- \$5 billion in loans will be available to farmers and agriculture producers through Farm Credit Canada.
- Air Canada, Westjet, Air Transat and Sunwing have scheduled flights this week to retrieve Canadians stranded in locations including Peru, Morocco and Honduras. All Canadians still overseas should immediately register with Global Affairs Canada at travel.gc.ca.
- Many airlines have announced a suspension of services or significantly reduced commercial flights to various destinations. This includes Air Canada, WestJet, and Porter Airlines.
- 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.
- **The City of Barrie has declared a state of emergency.** Declaring an emergency provides the City with additional powers and resources to protect the health and safety of Barrie residents and streamlines the decision-making process for expediency through the City's Emergency Control Group. This declaration aligns with the Government of Ontario's Declaration of Emergency made March 17, 2020.

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 (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

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. Local businesses are engaged with the government to see how they can help.
- 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 suspended all non-essential travel across the 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 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](https://twitter.com/johnbrassardCPC).

“Our Barrie-Innisfil and Ottawa offices are facing an unprecedented number of phone calls and e-mails. We are responding to everyone, but it is taking time. We had four staff members in the office(s) today and tomorrow we will have five”. Brassard concluded.

For more information:

Government of Canada COVID-19 information line: 1-833-784-4397 or Canada.ca/coronavirus

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