



NEWS SHEET OF THE EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

COVID-19 (coronavirus) - Recent News 04

Mayor Watson declares state of emergency for Ottawa due to COVID-19

Mayor Jim Watson today declared a state of emergency for the City of Ottawa due to the spread of COVID-19 in Ottawa. This aligns with Ontario Premier Doug Ford's announcement on Monday, March 23 that he is expanding Ontario's state of emergency to shut down all non-essential services.

Declaring a state of emergency will help the City deploy its emergency operations and staff in a more nimble fashion. It will also enable a more flexible procurement process, which will help purchase equipment required by frontline workers and first responders as it becomes available in the coming weeks.

Ottawa Public Health now has laboratory confirmation of the community spread of COVID-19 in Ottawa. We are also starting to see cases among health care workers who have not traveled or been a close contact of a confirmed case. Ottawa Public Health recommends all residents practise physical (social) distancing or self-isolate, if applicable, to help stop the spread of the virus. Information about laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 is available on [OttawaPublicHealth.ca/Coronavirus](https://ottawapublichealth.ca/Coronavirus)(link is external).

Following the declaration, the City formally requested the Province of Ontario to give the City flexibility to manage movement of staff, to redeploy resources, to support essential services and to be adaptable as this situation continues to evolve rapidly.

The most current information will be shared with residents on ottawa.ca and the City's social media channels. Ottawa Public Health will continue to provide updates on COVID-19 in Ottawa on [OttawaPublicHealth.ca/Coronavirus](https://ottawapublichealth.ca/Coronavirus)(link is external).

Published on March 25, 2020, by the web portal of the City of Ottawa (www.ottawa.ca)