



SMALL URBAN GTHA MAYORS STATEMENT ON IMPACTS OF INCREASED COVID-19 CASES

**For Immediate Release
January 8, 2021**

“The Small Urban GTHA Mayors met virtually yesterday to discuss the Provincial lockdown measures currently in place until January 23rd.

Positive Covid-19 cases are mounting in our communities at an alarming rate and there is an ongoing concern that these are primarily attributed to social gatherings occurring within private residences and through travel abroad. We would remind residents to only socialize with those living in your own household and to limit your outdoor visits to essential shopping for groceries and medical items. The Mayors call on the Federal government to clamp down on unnecessary travel to and from Canada in order to help curb the spread of Covid-19 across the Country.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed every facet of our lives, from how we work, go to school, and even how we shop and access services. Small businesses are an essential component to the economic vitality of small urban communities and have been hit particularly hard, especially new businesses that opened after March 15, 2020. The Federal Covid-19 business relief programs exclude these businesses, leaving them with no financial lifeline. We call on our Federal partners to amend guidelines to allow new businesses equal access to the financial supports available.

With the vaccines being rolled out in the coming months, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We will continue to work together to ensure our municipalities and facilities are ready to be used as vaccinations centres when the Province needs them.

As always, we continue to rely on the expert advice from our Chief Medical Officers of Health and together with our Federal, Provincial and Municipal partners, we are optimistic that we will find long term solutions that provide economic opportunities for our local businesses while working to ensure we overcome this second wave to emerge stronger and healthier.”

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