



# **Town of Atikokan Emergency Control Group**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Declaration of a Local Emergency**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- March 24, 2020

The Town of Atikokan has declared an emergency to the Province of Ontario due to Public Health concerns.

The Town of Atikokan Emergency Measurers Community Control Group met on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the current health crisis and agreed that this action was deemed necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our residents.

This declaration is needed to ensure that the Town of Atikokan will have the necessary resources available during this Public Health pandemic.

The declaration also supports the current Public Health recommendations that need to be followed, including (subject to change):

- Restricting gatherings.
- Reinforcing social / physical distancing (at least 2 meters from each other).
- Reinforcing hand hygiene, disinfecting, and other protocols in place to prevent transmission.
- Cough or sneeze into your arm.
- If you have any symptoms, self-monitor and self-isolate, and contact a health care professional if symptoms persist.
- If you have travelled outside Canada recently, you are required to follow the Federal Government Guidelines which includes self-isolation and monitoring.

Residents who have questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the Northwestern Health Unit COVID-19 hotline at 1-866-468-2240 or Telehealth Ontario 1-866-797-0000.

Locally, a COVID-19 assessment centre has been created at the Atikokan Family Health Team building at 101 Zuke Road. Please call 1-807-597-8781 ext.0 for an appointment. No walk-in appointments will be accepted.

In addition, all Public Meetings (Council, Committee Meetings) have been cancelled until further notice. We encourage residents to visit our municipal website ([www.atikokan.ca](http://www.atikokan.ca)) and official social media channels for updates on service availability.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work hard to keep our staff and the general public safe and healthy.