

## Media Release

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Date: October 28, 2020

### Mayor's Message

Dear residents of Pembroke,

As we approach the Halloween weekend, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight how important it is that we remain vigilant in the fight against COVID-19. It is more important than ever to follow public health guidelines and wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, maintain social distancing with those outside of your home, stay home if you are sick, and get tested if you develop symptoms.

The Renfrew County and District Health Unit has published some very helpful information regarding [how to celebrate Halloween in a safe manner](#). They have provided many helpful at-home celebration suggestions such as making crafts, doing an at-home treat hunt, having a virtual party, watching a spooky movie, and baking a Halloween treat. The Health Unit has also published tips on how to trick-or-treat safely if you choose to do so. These tips include physically distancing with those not in your household, wearing a mask, avoiding hand-to-hand contact when accepting treats, washing your hands before and after, and avoiding high-touch surfaces like doorbells. However you decide to celebrate, I hope you have a safe and happy Halloween.

We are seeing more schools in our area have positive COVID-19 cases. This is an important reminder for parents to complete the [COVID-19 school and child care screening](#) every morning for their children. For those going into workplaces, ensure you complete your employer's assessment tool every morning, or use the province's [COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#). If you or your child is sick, stay home and get tested when necessary.

We are well into the second wave of COVID-19. As Dr. Cushman of the Health Unit has said, symptoms of COVID-19 can mimic many other sicknesses, so if you are sick, stay home, and let health professionals make your diagnosis. The only thing that can prevent a local outbreak of the coronavirus is to rigorously follow public health guidelines that include regular hand washing, social distancing, and wearing a mask in public spaces. I would like to thank all of Pembroke's citizens for continuing to do what is required in order to keep our community safe during these challenging times.

Our Parks and Recreation Department has many amenities and programs open for residents to enjoy safely. The Kinsmen Pool and Pem Ice II are open along with all parks and play structures in the city. We are offering programs such as free chair yoga, walking at the PMC, stand up paddleboard yoga, public skating, and much of the regular programming at the Kinsmen Pool. The PMC remains closed for skating and ice rentals, however is open for activities such as chair yoga and walking. For a calendar of recreation programming, visit our [website](#).

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Last week we celebrated Small Business Week in the City of Pembroke. We were able to share the faces of over 50 business owners in Pembroke on our social media platforms. We hope this served as a reminder that small businesses in the City are owned and operated by our neighbours and friends. This pandemic has not been easy on our local business community, so I strongly encourage everyone to shop local and support our businesses in a safe manner.

In closing, I would like to emphasize how important it is to know that we are very much still in the middle of a pandemic. We absolutely must remain vigilant if we want to combat the spread of COVID-19. Please also remember to remain patient and understanding with one another, as the only way to get through this is together. I would like to send my deepest thanks to all essential workers in our community who are keeping us safe. As a community, we can be proud of how we have handled this pandemic and taken public safety seriously — and now is not the time to relax. Please continue to follow the guidelines of the Renfrew County and District Health Unit and have a safe and happy Halloween!

For COVID-19 testing dates and times visit the Renfrew Virtual Triage Assessment Centre (VTAC) [testing schedule](#) or call VTAC at 1-844-727-6404 to book an appointment for testing. For regularly updated information on the pandemic from a local, provincial, and federal level, please visit the City's [2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) webpage](#).

Thank you, and be well.

Mayor Mike LeMay

For further information on COVID-19, please refer to the following sources:

[The City of Pembroke COVID-19 Updates and Info](#)

[The City of Pembroke COVID-19 Business Resources](#)

[Renfrew County and District Health Unit](#)

[Health Canada](#)

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**Contact:** Heather Salovaara  
Emergency Information Officer  
[hsalovaara@pembroke.ca](mailto:hsalovaara@pembroke.ca)  
613-735-6821 ext. 1500