

ATTACHMENT #1:

YEAR IN REVIEW: COVID-19 CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS

The City of Vaughan had been monitoring the COVID-19 situation since late January 2020 with enhanced monitoring by the EOC as of February 1, 2020. On March 13, 2020 the EOC was partially activated. On March 14, 2020 the City closed its community centres and libraries. The City of Vaughan was the first city in Ontario and the first municipality in York Region to declare a state of emergency on March 17, 2020. On March 18, 2020 all city facilities were closed to the public and facilities in the City parks were also closed on March 25, 2020. As of February 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic persists, and the City continues to respond to the situation to ensure the safety of its staff and residents. The following provides a chronology of key events from March 2020 to February 2021.

- **March 13, 2020** the Emergency Response Plan was activated and the City cancelled all City and library March Break camps and daycare programming and closed facilities to the public.
- **March 14, 2020** the City closed all community centres and library branches in response to COVID-19. The closure also extended to events, all community centre permits/rentals, recreational programming, swimming pools, arenas and fitness facilities as well as the City Playhouse Theatre.
- **March 17, 2020** the Mayor declared a state of emergency signaling the City would take every precaution and every possible step to help break the transmission of COVID-19. The state of emergency remains in place.
- **March 17, 2020** enacted the Vaughan Business Action Plan at Special Committee.
- **March 18, 2020** City Hall, Joint Operations Centre and all facilities were closed to the public.
- **March 21, 2020** the City advised members of the public to avoid any public playgrounds and other high-touch surfaces in parks as they are not sanitized. Signs were installed in all parks with playgrounds throughout the community directing residents to stay off the equipment.
- **March 25, 2020** all facilities within the City's 213 parks, including sports fields, tennis courts, benches and dog parks were closed to the public.

- **March 30, 2020** the City held its first electronic-participation Committee of the Whole and Council meetings. Electronic meetings continue for the Council meeting cycles and all committees, public hearings and taskforces.
- **April 8, 2020** Council adopted an Emergency Measures By-law granting new authorities to the Mayor and staff to issue clear, responsive and decisive orders during the state of emergency.
- **May 14, 2020** the Mayor announced the City had chosen to keep park facilities closed to keep the community safe and healthy despite the provincial government allowing for some facilities to reopen.
- **May 14, 2020** introduced curbside pickup up at three Resource Libraries
- **June 12, 2020** the City reopened public tennis courts, skateboard parks, the dog park and parking lots.
- **June 19, 2020** the City reopened a number of additional park facilities, including picnic tables, benches, soccer fields and ball diamonds (excluding premium and artificial), and basketball and bocce courts.
- **June 23, 2020** passed the Vaughan Business Resilience Plan at the Ready, Resilient, Resourceful Committee of Council.
- **June 26, 2020** the City reopened splashpads and public washrooms.
- **July 6, 2020** introduced curbside pickup at remaining seven community Libraries
- **July 24, 2020** playgrounds reopened in Vaughan.
- **August 5, 2020** the City announced the continued closure of facilities - including Vaughan City Hall and the Joint Operations Centre - until at least January 4, 2021.
- **August 10, 2020** fitness centres and City squash courts reopened on a limited basis.
- **August 17, 2020** select in-person fitness classes resumed.
- **September 8, 2020** pools reopen for recreational and length swimming and aquafitness classes by appointment.

- **September 8, 2020** re-opened three Resource Libraries. Curbside pickup continued at Community Libraries.
- **September 19, 2020** the limit on the number of people allowed to attend an unmonitored social gathering or organized public event in Vaughan and York Region is restricted to 10 people indoors (previous limit of 50) and 25 people outdoors (previous limit of 100). This includes functions, parties, dinners, gatherings, barbecues or wedding receptions held in private residences, backyards and parks.
- **September 21, 2020** All remaining indoor pools in the City of Vaughan reopen to the public.
- **October 19, 2020** Province announced modified Stage 2 restrictions for the City of Vaughan and all of York Region for 28 days. As a result, all City fitness centres closed starting on Monday, Oct. 19. In-person fitness classes were cancelled. However, virtual fitness classes continued to be available via Zoom and YouTube. Swimming pools remain open for recreational and length swimming, as well as aquafitness, with additional protocols, including reduced capacity; the number of people in the pool at one time will be limited to 10. Arenas will also remain open by permit only, however, the number of people on the ice at one time will be limited to 10 with no spectators. Team sports will be limited to training sessions only – no games and scrimmages.
- **October 21, 2020** Council voted to further extend the temporary patio permit deadline until the end of the declared state of emergency in Vaughan – it will remain in effect until 14 days beyond this date.
- **November 3, 2020** the Province announced updates on restrictions for communities affected by COVID-19 called the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#). Under this new framework, York Region moved to the "Orange – Restrict" level as of Saturday, Nov. 7, allowing gyms – among other businesses – to reopen with additional protective measures. In Vaughan, the decision to reopen facilities is informed by a risk model developed by the City with public safety always being the priority. The risk model uses Vaughan-specific COVID-19 data and reflects guidance issued by [York Region Public Health](#) and the provincial government. **Based on this model, City fitness centres continued to remain closed.**
- **November 13, 2020** Toy Drive launch in support of CP24 CHUM Christmas Wish.
- **November 16, 2020** York Region moved to the Control-Red level in the Province of Ontario's tiered [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#).

- **November 25, 2020** Virtual Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony.
- **November 27, 2020** COVID-19 Enforcement Initiative conducted in conjunction with York Regional Health (YRH) for inspection of businesses for compliance under the ROA O.Reg 82/20.
- **December 4, 2020** Virtual Christmas Tree lighting.
- **December 10, 2020** Virtual Menorah lighting.
- **December 14, 2020** York Region entered Grey-Lockdown Stage, closing pools and indoor arenas.
- **December 26, 2020** Province moves to full lockdown restrictions. All recreational and library facilities closed; virtual programming continued and libraries reverted back to curbside pickup.
- **December 31, 2020** BCLPS conducts Boxing Day Mall Blitz and New Year's Eve Banquet Halls & Eating Establishment Blitz.
- **January 15, 2021** City closes dog park, skating rinks and toboggan hill in response to Province's "Stay at Home" measures and in response to rising cases of the virus and people crowding in these spaces while not following public health guidelines around physical distancing and mask usage.
- **January 25, 2021** Recreation Services introduced Vaughan FITbreaks, daily 5-minute exercises to add a short burst of physical activity aimed to re-energize the body and mind.
- **January 27, 2021** The dog park and toboggan hill reopened with enhanced safety protocols and enforcement measures.
- **February 1, 2021** All five of the City's outdoor rinks reopen with enhanced safety and registration protocols.
- **February 4, 2021** City launched a new snowshoe loaner program.
- **February 7, 2021** City hosted its first-ever Virtual Winterfest
- **February 22, 2021** York Region moved to the Control-Red level in the Province of Ontario's tiered [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#).

2020-2021 CITY OF VAUGHAN COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS

