



LaSalle Police Service

“Dedicated to Serve”

Message from the Chief of Police on COVID-19 and Impact on Police Operations

The LaSalle Police Service is actively monitoring the reports of Coronavirus (COVID-19) from credible sources and considering how the COVID-19 as well as other respiratory diseases (e.g. cold and flu) will affect our community and organization. In collaboration with the Municipality of the Town of LaSalle and the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, we are working to respond to the challenges posed by COVID-19. Our main focus is the health, safety, and wellbeing of our community and staff which remains paramount.

The following information is intended to update the public on the LaSalle Police Service’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- When the World Health Organization declared the Novel Coronavirus outbreak an international health emergency on January 31, 2020 we have communicated regularly with, and taken guidance from, the Municipality of LaSalle and the Windsor Essex County Health Unit. To date, this has included closely monitoring the situation and providing regular updates and guidance to our members. We are also taking other precautions such as limiting non-essential meetings, events and training. It is important to note that there have been no service disruptions.
- Based on up to date information, we have decided to temporarily modify some **non-emergency** services, effective Sunday March 15, 2020. These measures are aimed at protecting all by minimizing the possibility of human to human transmission of the virus. **All emergency services remain in place.**
- We are asking members of the community to restrict attending the LaSalle Police Service HQ facility unless absolutely necessary. For all non-emergent calls for service, please use our website at www.lasallepolice.ca and click on the “**Online Reporting**” tab. Further, we will not be accepting in-person record check applications or in-person Freedom of Information requests. The Record Check applications can also be found on-our website. For any Freedom of Information requests / inquiries, please email myearley@lasallepolice.ca or contact **519-969-5210 ext. 2061**;
- Effective **Sunday March 15, 2020**, if you need to attend LaSalle Police Headquarters, you may be subject to brief non-intrusive screening related to the COVID-19 health risks. Please understand this is for the protection and peace of mind of our staff who will be serving you and other members of the public. Please do not attend police facilities if you are feeling unwell unless it is an emergency.
- If you telephone the LaSalle Police Service or LaSalle Fire Service Communication Center requesting an officer or firefighter to attend for a non-emergent event, you may be asked additional screening questions related to the COVID-19 health risks before an officer or firefighter is dispatched. Again, this is for the protection and peace of mind of our members and the public.
- You may see members of our service wearing personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks for their own protection.

Please note that **all emergency services are and remain fully functional**. The situation is fluid and dynamic, and as the information from health authorities’ changes, so to will our approach.

As these situations may cause stress and anxiety, I want to personally guarantee our community that the LaSalle Police Service and its members are doing everything they can to help mitigate the situation. I wish to thank everyone for your patience and understanding especially during these challenging times..

I wish to also thank the members of the LaSalle Police Service for their professionalism and dedication to their peers and to their community.

Please monitor closely the below sites for up to date information:

Government of Canada

The Federal government’s webpage provides general information about COVID-19, travel advice, tips to stay safe.

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Ontario Ministry of Health

Every weekday at 10:30 am, the Province of Ontario’s novel coronavirus web page is updated with the most up-to-date information, including the status of cases in Ontario.

- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Windsor Essex County Health Unit

WECHU maintains a webpage with current information. Follow them on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram.

- <https://www.wechu.org/>

Sincerely,

John LEONTOWICZ
Chief of Police