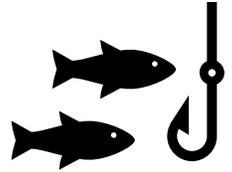


**Township of Southgate**  
**Press Release – April 21, 2020**



The Township of Southgate supports fishing as a fun outdoor activity and encourages it as it can promote mental wellbeing and meals for households.

The 2020 spring fishing season is still on target for opening dates and while we hope to see people enjoying this activity, it is important to follow the below protocols due to COVID-19 orders and restrictions. **HELP STOP THE SPREAD.**



- Avoid contact with people outside of your immediate household – do not go fishing with friends.
- Public gatherings are limited to a maximum of 5 people and this includes fishing areas.
- Keep at least 2 metres between yourself and others.
- All Southgate parks remain closed and no fishing will be permitted on these sites; this includes but is not limited to the Holstein Park.
- We encourage people to fish from the shoreline to prevent the risk of emergency responses.
- Do not travel outside of your local area. Limiting non-essential travel will help protect against community spread.

Please refer to the Physical Distancing for Anglers document for more information.

To report issues related to trespassing or distancing concerns, please call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122.



# COVID-19

## Considerations for Physical Distancing for Anglers

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Fishing is a common activity in Grey and Bruce Counties. Taking time for fun and self-care is important, fishing is one outdoor activity that can help promote your mental wellbeing and provide a nutritious food choice for your household.

To help slow the spread of COVID-19, the Government of Ontario has issued the following orders:

- March 28<sup>th</sup>: an emergency order to prohibit public and social gatherings of more than five people.
- March 30<sup>th</sup>, an emergency order to close all outdoor recreational amenities across province, including municipal boat launches.

**These orders can be enforced and are punishable by fines.**

To slow the spread of COVID-19, follow these recommendations while fishing:

### Plan Ahead

- Stay at home if you are sick.
- The Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario has strongly recommended that individuals over 70 years of age self-isolate.
- The Government of Ontario has restricted non-essential international travel. Avoid travelling to other regions or municipalities to go fishing, choose a location as close to home as possible.
- Many public spaces are closed or are limiting access. Check ahead before going. For example, all marinas are now closed with the exception of those which provide individuals access to their primary place of residence.

### Maintain a Physical Distance

- Keeping at least 2 metres between yourself and others, consider how this distance can be maintained if you are on a boat or on a dock/pier with others.
- Avoid fishing in areas with 5 people or more (find your own hole!).
- Avoid contact with people outside of your immediate household, unless necessary (grocery shopping); do not go fishing with friends – be a lone wolf!



Three Salmon Lengths

### Cleaning Surfaces and Hand Hygiene

- Avoid sharing equipment with others, if you do share any equipment practice proper hand hygiene before and after touching these surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Clean and disinfect high-touch objects and surfaces frequently.
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve; avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

### **Resources**

Visit [www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](http://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca), [www.covid-19.ontario.ca](http://www.covid-19.ontario.ca), or [www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus) for more information about COVID-19.

[Ontario Prohibits Gatherings of More Than Five People with Strict Exceptions \(Ontario News Release March 28, 2020\)](#)

[Ontario Extends Emergency Declaration to Stop the Spread of COVID-19: All Outdoor Recreational Amenities across Province Now Closed \(Ontario News Release March 30, 2020\)](#)

[Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters](#)

[Taking Care of Your Mental Health \(Public Health Agency of Canada\)](#)

April 8, 2020