Media Release

May 7, 2020

COVID-19 - Garage Sales

The Grey Bruce Health Unit Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Ian Arra, is strongly recommending that garage and yard sales not take place in Grey and Bruce. There is increased risk of transmission of COVID-19 in such settings. Some municipalities have already taken the proactive step locally. While the re-opening of the economy is of priority, there is a great need to continue to do everything possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit has developed, and shared with municipalities, a guidance document, Considerations for the Exchange of Second Hand Items, to provide safer options to sell used goods. This guidance includes using web-based platforms for the sale of products, along with personal distancing and protective measures that keep people safe.

As the province moves to re-open, we will review this direction regularly and will communicate any changes to municipalities, immediately.

For more information on COVID-19, visit the Grey Bruce Health Unit.

Attachment: Considerations for the Exchange of Second Hand Items

For More Information:
Dr. Ian Arra
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
To arrange to speak with Dr. Arra, please contact Drew Ferguson at: 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 1269
d.ferguson@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

A healthier future for all.
101 17th Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0A5 www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca
519-376-9420 1-800-263-3456 Fax 519-376-0605
Garage and yard sales with more than 5 people present are prohibited – all other garage and yard sales are strongly discouraged.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, residents in Grey Bruce may want to sell private property and second-hand items. At this time, garage and yard sales are strongly discouraged, and if more than 5 people are present would be prohibited. This is in accordance with the extended emergency order issued by the Government of Ontario (April 14th) which prohibits public and social gatherings of more than five people.

The following considerations may be helpful if you choose to participate in the sale of second hand items using alternate means (online platforms, social media, etc.). Buying and selling items through these means is allowed at the buyers and sellers own risk.

For most people, delaying these sales will be the safest decision.

Review advice from your local municipality regarding the situation.

- Many municipalities have prohibited yard/garage sales, these bans may be enforced by by-law officers or local police. Review the information provided for residents on municipal websites and through local news outlets.

Stay home as much as possible and continue to practice physical distancing.

- Use contactless payments like e-transfers rather than cash or cheques
- Offer contactless pick-up or drop-off of items, such as curbside or doorstep.
- If a contactless transaction is not possible:
  - Maintain a 2 metre distance between yourself and others.
- Do not meet if anyone in either household is feeling unwell.
- Do not have visitors in your home.

**Cleaning and Disinfecting**

- Ensure items are cleaned and disinfected
- Practice proper hand hygiene:
  - Wash your hands with soap and water often, especially before and after handling any items involved in the sale.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
  - Cough and sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue.
- Follow provincial guidance if you choose to wear a mask.

**Resources**


For information on the 2019 novel coronavirus see the [Grey Bruce Health Unit Website](#).