

## **VIDEO: 'Just stay home': Kawartha Lakes mayor**

*Sarah Sobanski*

Kawartha Lakes Mayor Andy Letham is reminding residents to “just stay home” to help battle the COVID-19 pandemic.

After staggering estimates by the province that could see up to 15,000 COVID-19 related deaths in Ontario, Letham reached out to residents via video message.

“Recent news continues to show the devastation of this pandemic,” Letham said. “Nursing homes across the world, including our very own Pinecrest [Nursing Home], are in critical conditions because the virus has made its way indoors. My heart continues to be heavy as we hear about what the residents, staff and families continue to go through.”

He added: “The message for the weekend is straight forward. Three simple words. Just stay home.”

Letham said he couldn't “overstate the importance of following the rules.” He asked residents to listen to health experts.

“I do not want Kawartha Lakes to be in a position where we need to take lawful action to get you to listen. Remember, everyone needs to stay home so we can contain this crisis. The more you go out, the more you put yourself and others at risk.”

The mayor reminded residents that all municipal buildings and recreational areas, including parks and beaches, are closed. Essential services will continue.

He added the limit for curbside garbage has increased from two bags to three bags.

“As a municipality, we are doing our best to serve the public, while keeping safety and critical services a priority. I want to remind you, we are still in a state of emergency, provincially and locally.”