

Kawartha Lakes urges residents to stream meetings from home

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Kawartha Lakes is urging citizens to watch meetings from home instead of attending City Hall.

With the COVID-19 outbreak, the city is asking residents with internet access to stay home and livestream meetings from the city's [YouTube account](#), [City of Kawartha Lakes](#) or on [Cogeco](#).

“Our first priority is preventing the spread of this virus,” said Mayor Andy Letham. “We’re taking precautionary measures, but there’s no need to panic, but we need to do some things to try and get ahead of (COVID-19).”

The city’s volunteer groups and committees have cancelled meetings until further notice. Letham said the committee of the whole and regular council meetings will continue and be livestreamed. [Council’s next regular meeting is scheduled for March 24.](#)

Spokesperson for the city Cheri Davidson said while the city is encouraging social distancing, those without access to the internet can still attend those meetings.

As of Monday, March 16, City Hall hadn’t closed, but Letham said the city has not ruled out that possibility. [The mayor is meeting with the city’s emergency management group this afternoon with plans to update the public at a special meeting of council tomorrow at 10 a.m.](#)

“That’s exactly what we’re going to discuss. What measures should we be taking from here?” Letham asked, noting the city’s closure of [arenas](#), [libraries](#), EarlyON centres and more. He added things are changing fast.

“We’re doing everything we can according to protocols to try to be the lead on social responsibility.”

Letham said “nothing is off the table” when it comes to how the council might go about meeting if City Hall is closed.

“We’re going to have to hunker down for a while,” Letham added.