



May 8, 2020

**Attn: City of Guelph Council**

**RE: Motion from Councillor Gordon (7.1):** *Closure of traffic lanes during the COVID-19 public health emergency to support social distancing by creating special separated active transportation routes in strategic locations*

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) supports the motion to close specific traffic lanes aligned with physically constrained, high-use sidewalks during the COVID-19 public health emergency, dependent on city staff capacity and resource considerations.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, regular physical activity is encouraged for all residents. Physical activity is related to improvements in overall physical health, mental health and well-being. Following the [World Health Organization's recommendations](#), WDGPH supports walking, cycling or wheeling within the community for recreational purposes and as an active transportation mode for essential trips (e.g., food, medication, medical appointments) if the following conditions are met:

- People do not have any [COVID-19 symptoms](#)
- **Always maintain physical distancing (i.e., 2 metres between yourself and others)**
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer upon arrival at destination/home.
- Cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm
- Closed areas are avoided (e.g., parks, recreation facilities)

Connectivity, accessibility, perceived and real safety are important predictors of participation in active transport. Areas with physically constrained sidewalks deter pedestrians and increase risk of being within proximity to others and vehicles. Closing traffic lanes in physically constrained areas will improve active transport movement and connectivity, and help residents maintain physical distancing.

Sincerely,

Christopher Beveridge  
Director, Health Protection  
Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health