

**FROM: Corporate Communications**

**DATE: April 3, 2020**

### **OPP Enforcement during COVID-19 Pandemic**

**(ORILLIA, ON)** - The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) encourages businesses and individuals to voluntarily comply with the short-term restrictions introduced by the federal and provincial governments to combat the spread of COVID-19.

While education, awareness and compliance are preferred options, officers will apply discretion to lay charges under the provincial *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA)

Enforcement actions can include offences relating to:

- operation of non-essential businesses and
- gatherings of more than five people, with some exceptions

Additionally, police have the authority to arrest those in non-compliance of the federal *Quarantine Act* at the request of a screening or quarantine officer.

The OPP will continue to provide public safety services to the communities we serve and support the efforts of federal, provincial and local health authorities during the current situation involving COVID-19. We appreciate the public's ongoing support of these measures. Stay home and avoid non-essential travel, practice good hygiene and follow the Ontario Ministry of Health's recommendations in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.

If you wish to file a report regarding non-compliance under the Quarantine Act, contact [Public Health Agency of Canada](#). For emergencies, please call 9-1-1. For all other police matters, including non-compliance to the EMCPA, please call your local police or the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. For less serious incidents, report online by visiting [opp.ca/reporting](http://opp.ca/reporting).

Additional COVID-19 information and resources can be found at [Ontario.ca](http://Ontario.ca) and the Government of Canada [website](#). OPP-related information and updates can be found at [opp.ca](http://opp.ca).

**- 30 -**

**West Region: Derek Rogers Ph: (226) 448-0527**

Staff Sergeant Carolle Dionne  
Provincial Media Relations Coordinator  
705-498-1201 or [carolle.dionne@opp.ca](mailto:carolle.dionne@opp.ca)