

# HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING BOARD OF YORK REGION

## Commissioner's Update

**Katherine Chislett**, Commissioner of  
Community & Health Services

September 18, 2020



# **York Region Update - Quick Summary**

## **April — September 2020**

# York Region Actions: Community Support

Subject	Action
Community Support	COVID-19 Community Coordination (3C) initiative: a coordinated effort to support vulnerable residents for needs such as emergency food access, homelessness prevention, and seniors services
	Mask Distribution Initiative: Council approved the purchase of 300K masks to be distributed to vulnerable residents
	Expanded Access York service to 7 days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to provide more opportunity for residents have the information they need, when they need it

# York Region Actions: Income and Business Supports, and Transportation

Subject	Action
Income Support	Region issued the provincial emergency discretionary benefit to eligible Ontario Works customers
Business Support	York Region Business Recovery Support Partnership established, providing support to businesses. In June, Region released details on support programs for small businesses <a href="http://yorklink.ca">yorklink.ca</a>
Transportation	Implemented mandatory, non-medical face masks or coverings on all York Region Transit (YRT) buses and vehicles. 100,000 masks made available for customers entering the YRT system
	Implemented temporary one-traveller per Mobility On-Request vehicles

# York Region Actions: Children's Services

Subject	Action
Children's Services	Partnered with all three local hospitals to offer virtual Neonatal Follow Up clinics
	Responding to Program Closures: York Region opened six emergency child care centres for essential healthcare and other frontline workers when day cares were shut down earlier this year
	Bouncing Back Into Action: 520 of our 540 child care centres across the Region have reopened. Fee subsidy applications have resumed providing assistance to help families
	EarlyON agencies adapted successfully to offer a wide range of virtual supports for families with young children Videos were viewed a million times!
	Expanded supports for families of children with special needs to include virtual visits, allowing staff to see more clients and provide parents with support and strategies to help their children

# York Region Actions: Homelessness Prevention and Housing Services

Subject	Action
Homelessness	Established and implemented a multi-pronged COVID-19 Homelessness Response Strategy, including temporary supports through self-isolation and transitional shelter sites
	Worked with United Way to enhance funding for the Region's Homelessness Prevention Program
Housing	Implemented short-term rent benefit program for market rent households living in community housing who have lost employment income as a result of COVID-19
	Administered provincial funding to assist Housing with Support operators with costs for supplies and enriched in-home activities

# York Region Actions: Paramedic Actions and Supports for Seniors

Subject	Action
Paramedics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set up mobile COVID-19 testing, and provided education on infection prevention and control practices for Group Homes, Emergency Housing locations, Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes</li><li>• Partnered with Public Health to meet anticipated increases in overdose calls</li><li>• Set up a dedicated testing site, in partnership with Public Health, for health care workers</li><li>• Supported seniors' care settings by conducting assessments in conjunction with other health care providers</li></ul>
Support for Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• York Region wellness checks for seniors living in community housing to ensure they are safe, and have the help and supports that they need</li><li>• Facilitated Emergency Seniors Response funding to support projects in four communities</li><li>• Secured funding and implementing Connecting Seniors to Technology project</li></ul>

**Thank you**