

**Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

**Chief Administrative Office**

**Fire and Emergency Services**

**Information Report**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Chris Case, Fire Chief  
**Date:** March 25, 2020  
**Subject:** EMS COVID-19 Temporary Service Level Adjustment

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**This report is for the information of Council.**

**Background**

The demands, both clinically and logistically, for Paramedic Services have grown significantly since the commencement of the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has presented Chatham-Kent Emergency Medical Services (CKEMS) with some unique and new challenges for clinical responses, safety preparation, logistical structure, and quality assurance.

CKEMS currently operates under a service agreement and the level of service is set by Chatham-Kent Council. Since 2012, Medavie EMS Chatham-Kent Ontario (MEMSCKO), in partnership with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent have evaluated and implemented various system strategies to respond to various demands as they arise.

**Comments**

Due to direct impacts from COVID-19 in the best interest of public safety, pre-hospital patient care, and paramedic safety, an increased level of frontline support was required to meet the service level objectives of EMS.

As a result, Operational Supervisors have been transitioned from working as part of a two-member crew on an ambulance to working in an emergency response vehicle. The Operational Supervisors are available to respond to major incidents to provide scene oversight, and available to provide medical response to low acuity patient calls, and when ambulance availability is reduced. The Operational Supervisor would also be available to perform administrative and supportive duties increased from COVID-19.

The Operational Supervisor shift will be backfilled by a primary care paramedic. No additional ambulances have been added to the fleet as part of the COVID-19 increase but rather a support vehicle to assist the existing ambulances on duty.

**Consultation**

CKFES was in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer on this matter.

**Financial Implications**

The impact of the COVID-19 service level increase will be \$40,000.00 per month. This increase will occur until the provincial emergency declaration ends or it is revaluated after 90 days.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has been notified of this financial impact. The *Ontario Action Plan: Responding to Covid-19* announcement released on March 25, 2020 indicated an additional \$80 million to be allocated to ambulance and paramedic services across Ontario. At the time of writing there is no confirmation of funding to Chatham-Kent.

Covid-19 impacts to Chatham-Kent are being tracked and will be reported to Council in the future for funding option.

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Attachment(s):

None

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