



## CORPORATE FACILITIES DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** MAYOR J. LEHMAN, AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

**FROM:** R. PEWS, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE FACILITIES

**NOTED:** D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES  
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**RE:** REQUEST FROM ROYAL VICTORIA REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE TO UTILIZE 29 SPERLING DRIVE FOR A COVID-19 ASSESSMENT CENTRE

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

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The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with information concerning a request from the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) to utilize the City's former police headquarters at 29 Sperling Drive for a COVID-19 Assessment Centre.

RVH is currently conducting testing of asymptomatic individuals through a drive through COVID-19 testing location at the Atrium entrance of the hospital. The testing location hours are as follows:

- Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Holidays: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms are encouraged to attend the Barrie COVID-19 Assessment Centre located at 490 Huronia Road. The hours of operation for the Centre are Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The testing site at RVH has been very popular and has generated significant amounts of traffic that have negatively impacted access to RVH and have caused significant line ups that are extending out to Georgian Drive.

RVH created a COVID Assessment Centre Working Group to seek alternative locations for its testing. The Working Group representatives approached Barrie Police Service concerning the use of its former headquarters at 29 Sperling Drive. As the site is owned by the City, Barrie Police directed the Working Group representatives to the City's Corporate Facilities Department.

The 29 Sperling Drive site is vacant. In accordance with previous Council direction, staff have been undertaking the steps necessary to place the property on the market for a sale. The sale proceeds were intended to offset a portion of the costs associated with the construction of the Barrie-Simcoe Emergency Services Campus. As the timing of closure for any sale of this site was unknown, a small dollar amount for minor operating costs (front entrance snow clearing, security, utilities, etc.) has been included in the draft 2021 Business Plan and Budget.

Given RVH's request and the importance of COVID-19 testing, Corporate Facilities staff met with the Working Group representatives to review the site and the feasibility of its use as an Assessment Centre. On Friday, September 18, 2020, the Working Group indicated that 29 Sperling Drive is its preferred location for a COVID-19 Assessment Centre that would provide expanded services (compared to the asymptomatic testing only that was conducted on RVH property).



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The COVID Assessment Centre Working Group is interested in utilizing portions of both the interior and the exterior of the 29 Sperling Drive site to facilitate testing and broader assessment activities. The following is a summary of key points concerning the proposed utilization of the site:

Topic	Comment
Fees for use of space	Given the importance of a COVID-19 assessment centre, the site is proposed to be provided without charge for the space itself.
Period of use	Immediate occupancy for the 2020/2021 winter season at minimum, and preferably up to 18 months
Costs of capital works	RVH would be responsible for any minor changes required to facilitate use as an assessment centre
Cleaning costs	RVH would be responsible for cleaning of the facility
Other operating costs (utilities, snow clearing, security, building maintenance, etc.)	The City's 2020 Business Plan and Budget and the draft 2021 budget include a base level of funding for maintaining the vacant building. Additional and unbudgeted costs would be anticipated with regular usage of the site.

As RVH is seeking to put forward 29 Sperling Drive to the Province as its preferred location for an Assessment Centre, it is seeking support from the City for the use of its property. Should Council wish to support the preferred location, the following direct motions could be considered:

Motion without Notice

### MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE – ROYAL VICTORIA REGIONAL HOSPITAL REQUEST TO UTILIZE 29 SPERLING DRIVE

The pursuant to Section 7.1 of the Procedural By-law 2019-100 as amended, permission be granted to introduce a motion without notice concerning a Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre request to utilize 29 Sperling Drive.

A two-thirds majority would be required to introduce the main motion.

Main motion

### UTILIZATION OF 29 SPERLING DRIVE FOR A COVID-19 ASSESSMENT CENTRE

1. That the utilization by the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) of 29 Sperling Drive as a COVID-19 Assessment Centre be supported
2. That the sale of 29 Sperling Drive be temporarily suspended for a period of no longer than 18 months.
3. That the 29 Sperling Drive property be provided without charge for the space itself and the Director of Corporate Facilities be authorized to negotiate the length of the arrangement as well as other terms associated with its use, subject to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Community and Corporate Services and the Director of Legal Services, and the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute any documents that may be required.
4. That RVH be authorized to undertake minor changes to the property to facilitate its use as a COVID-19 Assessment Centre, at its own cost.
5. That any incremental increases in operating costs associated with the use of the site for a COVID-19 Assessment Centre be recovered from RVH or another external funding source.