

## MEDIA RELEASE

## Tuesday, April 27, 2021

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **City statement on gatherings at Meridian Place**

(Barrie, ON) Gatherings have taken place at Meridian Place contrary to the Provincial Stay-at-Home Order, provincial legislation and regulations, the City's COVID-19 Emergency Measures By-law, and Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's public health guidelines. The people who have been seen attending are not practicing physical distancing, and for the most part, are not wearing masks or face coverings. These gatherings threaten efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19 in our community and may place further strain on our already stretched healthcare system.

While the gatherings remain subject to police enforcement with respect to the Provincial Stay-at-Home Order, provincial legislation and regulations, the City is exploring all available actions to stop these gatherings, including possible court action for an injunction to restrain the organizers.

The City's top priority continues to be the health and safety of Barrie residents and staff. The City urges all to comply with Ontario's Stay-at-Home Order, provincial legislation and regulations, the City's COVID-19 Emergency Measures By-law, and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's public health guidelines.

We all have a role to play. Please stay home and save lives.

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