



Staff Report

Report Title: Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) Update (13)

Prepared By: Emily Dance, Clerk

Department: Clerk

Date: Feb. 1, 2021

Report Number: CLK-2021-02-12

File Number:

P03-COV20

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CLK-2021-01-12 prepared by Emily Dance, Clerk

Background:

Provincial Government

On January 26, 2021 the provincial government announced an investment of over \$40 million during COVID-19 to help small and rural municipalities [improve delivery of critical programs and services](#). In addition, Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation announced a locally based [transportation task force](#) in southwestern Ontario.

[Ontario's Declaration of Emergency and the Stay-at-Home order](#), have been extended until Feb 9, 2021.

Restrictions contained in Reg 82/20 under the RE-opening Ontario Act was renewed through Reg 458/20 which will remain in force until February 19, 2021.

Grey Bruce Public Health

On January 20, 2021 Dr. Arra issued a [media release](#) regarding the public concerns on Amish and Mennonite Communities' church services. He indicated in his release that:

"While it may appear that these gatherings are outside the regulations of the provincial lockdown, they are in fact in full compliance. Attending church service while people remain seated in their buggies at the church's parking lot is compliant with the regulations."

In consultation with the Medical Officer of Health for Grey Bruce and the Medical Officer of Health for Ontario based on local data it was mutually agreed that the Grey Bruce Health Unit was ready to [reopen schools](#). Students in Grey and Bruce Counties went back to in-person learning on January 25, 2021.

On January 26, 2020 the Grey Bruce Health Unit indicated that the [COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force](#) is now in place for Grey Bruce. The role of the task force is to provide feedback as well as direct and indirect support for the Grey Bruce Health Unit COVID-19 Vaccination Program. The [Vaccination Program Playbook](#) outlines the purpose and objectives of the program and the phasing for immunization.

Discussion:

The Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) and Planning and Operations Group continues to meet weekly to assess changes in the pandemic and provide the required response when necessary. At the last meeting concerns were raised regarding pandemic fatigue and mental health.

Aligning with these concerns surrounding mental health The HUB will be delivering a virtual [Wellness Series](#) for focusing on mental health. The series has been developed to respond to the current needs of the business community and residents as we cope with stress brought on by the uncertain situation of COVID-19. In addition an information bulletin was released with contact details on organizations that can assist with dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further details provided on Report BED 2021-02-6.

Staff continues to update the website, deliver news releases, social media posts, electronic newsletters and hard copy newsletter to keep the residents informed on the pandemic and any modifications to services.

Financial Impacts:

The financial impacts related to the pandemic are not known at this time.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community by being open and transparent.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Emily Dance, Clerk

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer