



Staff Report

Report Title: Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) Update (14)

Prepared By: Emily Dance, Clerk

Department: Clerk

Date: Feb. 16, 2021

Report Number: CLK-2021-02-13

File Number:

P03-COV20

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information Report Number CLK-2021-02-13 prepared by Emily Dance, Clerk

Background:

Provincial Government

On February 8, 2021 the province announced that the declared Provincial Emergency would end on February 9, 2021 and all 31 orders under the EMPCA would be extended until February 23, 2021 and would be further extended if necessary.

The province further announced a gradual approach to returning to the COVID-19 response framework. The stay-at-home order for the Grey Bruce Health Unit would remain in effect until February 16, 2021. Also noted was that the framework was updated to allow for a safer approach to retail.

The updated framework in its entirety can be viewed on the [Province of Ontario dedicated webpage](#) and is subject to change.

At the time of writing the report it was not yet announced the placement in the framework for Grey-Bruce.

On February 11, 2021 the province announced that as a method to reduce community COVID transmission, they are postponing March break until April 12-16, 2021.

It was noted that this challenging decision was made with the best advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and public health officials, including consultations with many local Medical Officers of Health.

The Ontario government is taking action to stop the spread of new COVID-19 variants throughout the province by implementing a six-point plan which includes mandatory on-arrival testing of international travellers, enhanced screening and sequencing to identify the new variants, maintaining public health measures to keep people safe, strengthening case and contact management to track the spread of new cases, enhanced protections for vulnerable populations, and leveraging the latest data to inform public health decisions.

Ongoing vaccine delays and reduced shipments have forced the Ontario government to [update its goal](#) of completing the administration of first doses of COVID-19 vaccines to residents in each long-term care, high-risk retirement and First Nations elder care home to February 10.

Grey Bruce Public Health

The Grey-Bruce COVID-19 vaccination plan follows the provincial framework to ensure those at risk are the first to receive the vaccine.

The Grey Bruce Public Health Unit has a dedicated web page that provides general information regarding the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) and the Grey Bruce Health Unit [COVID-19 vaccination plan](#).

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 December 7, 2020 meeting, in response to the "Stay at Home" order and the concerns related to the increase in COVID-19 cases the MECG decided to close the municipal office to the public and reduce the number of staff members reporting to the office until further notice. During the time the office has been open only by appointment we have not received any negative feedback from the public.

With the gradual approach to the provincial framework and the added concerns surrounding the COVID-19 variances, the re-introduction of social gatherings, Easter and postponement of March Break the Planning and Operations Committee discussed the plan moving forward for the municipal office.

It was agreed that the municipal office should remain open by appointment only to the public with a limited number of staff members reporting to the office until the end of April 2021 at which time it can be re-evaluated.

All municipal services will continue to be offered to our residents. Staff will continue to be available by appointment and by phone or e-mail.

This cautious approach will allow staff to continue to work in a safe and stable environment and limit further disruptions that may arise due to the pandemic.

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