



Media Release

January 11, 2021

Outbreak at Sepoy Manor Retirement Home Declared Over

The COVID-19 Outbreak at Sepoy Manor Retirement Home in Lucknow has been declared over.

An outbreak of COVID-19 in a retirement home is declared when one or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 are identified in the home. **The legal declaration of an outbreak, its termination, and any information with regard to the status of the outbreak can only be made by Public Health and posted on our [website](#).**

Sepoy Manor was quick to identify the outbreak, promptly notified Public Health, and worked closely with Grey Bruce Health Unit staff throughout the outbreak response.

Working together, Sepoy Manor and Health Unit staff carefully evaluated the situation and worked to immediately implement outbreak measures appropriate for the level of risk. An on-site visit by Public Health included a comprehensive Infection and Prevention Control (IPAC) audit that indicated full compliance by the home.

Thanks to the dedication, co-operation, and perseverance of staff at Sepoy Manor, the outbreak was resolved quickly with minimal impact to the home's staff and residents.

Thanks to everyone for a job well done.

For More Information:

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Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

To arrange to speak with Dr. Arra, please contact Drew Ferguson at:

519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 1269 or d.ferguson@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

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Media Release

January 15, 2021

First COVID-19 Vaccinations in Grey and Bruce

A ninety-three year old resident of Maple View Long-Term Care Residence in Owen Sound is the first Grey County resident to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Eleonore Kueber was given the first dose of the Pfizer BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine this morning by Public Health Nurse Lisa Lambkin. As that vaccine was being given, the first vaccine in Bruce County was also being administered to Nora Foster, a seventy-one year old resident at Golden Dawn Senior Citizen Home in Lion's Head. Residents, staff and essential caregivers revved the vaccine. As well as Golden Dawn and Maple View, some vaccine was also administered at Georgian Heights Long-Term Care Centre in Owen Sound.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit took delivery of the first of two small shipments of the vaccine allocated to the Grey Bruce today and began vaccinations to residents in Long-Term Care homes across the region. The vaccine plan for Grey and Bruce will ensure those most at risk are first in line to get the vaccine.

A second shipment of vaccine will be arriving the week of January 25, 2021. The quantity of each shipment is small, with the first shipment 200 doses, and the second shipment will contain approximately 800 doses of vaccine.

The order by which people will receive the vaccine is based on the Ministry of Health [COVID-19 vaccine prioritization plan](#). As more vaccine arrives in Grey Bruce, the vaccine will continue to be delivered based on the provincial plan.

The rollout of vaccine to subsequent priority lists and to the general public will depend on vaccine availability. Dates, times and locations will be coordinated with relevant stakeholders. According to the Provincial plan, the process will take several months. The public will be advised through all media channels when the vaccine is more generally available and the process being used for community immunization clinics. **Please do not call the Health Unit to ask when you will receive your vaccine.**

"This is the first as we launch an effort to vaccinate the most amount of people in the shortest amount of time," says Grey Bruce's Top Doctor, Dr. Ian Arra. "The vaccine is the key to ending this pandemic both locally and globally. It will take time, but this is the first step on that journey back to a sense of normalcy again."

Attachment: Photo Pfizer BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine vial; Eleonore Kueber receives vaccine; Nora Foster receives vaccine; MOH Dr. Ian Arra beside vaccine cryogenic freezer

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Media Release

January 19, 2021

Grey-Bruce Health Unit Dedicated to Case and Contact Management

The Grey Bruce Health Unit wants to reassure the public that we continue to be dedicated to robust case and contact management of all cases and high risk contacts, including any case and contact management in workplaces. Several Health Units within Ontario have had to reduce or discontinue case and contact management due to the volume of cases. As a result, our health unit may not be receiving notification from other health units if an active case from another health unit had contact with residents from Grey and Bruce Counties.

We ask that all residents of Grey and Bruce Counties notify the COVID-19 team immediately if they become aware that they had contact with a person with COVID-19 from another geographic area.

COVID-19 Team: 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 Ext 3000

Similarly, we ask all employers of Grey and Bruce Counties notify the COVID-19 team immediately if they become aware that one of their employees was identified as case residing in another geographic area or had contact with such case.

We also ask that the public strictly adhere to the many COVID-19 prevention suggestions on our website (<https://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/COVID-19>), which includes the 3 W's and adhering to the [lockdown order](#) from the province.

We all understand the hardships that this pandemic has caused. It is because of the public's sacrifice that we continue to see 0 deaths related to COVID-19 here in Grey and Bruce Counties. We want to thank everyone for their hard work and sacrifices during this time in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 to populations at greatest risk of severe illness and death. You are saving people's lives, and we thank you for that.

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Media Release

January 20, 2021

Amish and Mennonite Communities' COVID-19 Collaboration

The Grey Bruce Health Unit maintains a collaborative relationship with our Amish and Mennonite communities and we continue to build on this connection.

In response to COVID-19, local Mennonite and Amish communities and leaders are observing provincial lockdown requirements and direction from the health unit.

Of concern to some public are these communities' church gatherings. 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. Furthermore, we have a high level of confidence that such practice does not increase the risk to the communities in Grey and Bruce. These groups have reached out to the health unit for consultation to ensure they are meeting attendance limits and are following rules for outside gatherings.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit's School Health Team is working with school leaders in these communities to assess COVID-19 related needs and lockdown compliance. We will act accordingly to ensure that knowledge and resources are shared with community schools.

Recent data show the majority of COVID-19 cases in Grey and Bruce did not acquire the virus from these types of community assemblies but rather from gatherings with family and friends.

COVID-19 requires us all to stay in this together. Now is the time to collaborate, not divide. We are eager to continue our efforts within these vital and vibrant communities and offer advice and support to the various communities, in the same way we collaborate with all municipalities within Grey and Bruce. It is only with this collaborative approach that we can get through this challenging time.

"This is a difficult time and hardship for all of us, but it is of critical importance that we all stay calm and kind, and remind ourselves and our communities that the pandemic is the cause of this hardship not the "others" whomever the "others" are Low German-speaking communities, visitors, or decision makers." said Dr. Ian Arra, Grey Bruce's Top Doctor.

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Media Release

January 14, 2021

COVID-19 Outbreak Associated with Municipality of The Blue Mountains

The Grey Bruce Health Unit has declared the outbreak within the Municipality of The Blue Mountains over as of January 14 2021.

On January 1, 2021, the Town of The Blue Mountains, in consultation with the Grey Bruce Health Unit, announced an outbreak within one department of the workplace, that is, there was evidence of transmission of COVID-19 to more than two individuals within the workplace environment, with no evidence of risk to the public.

Through robust case and contact management, and collaboration with the town, the outbreak was controlled and resolved.

Public Health is the lead in all outbreaks and case management and will let you know if you are a close contact with someone who has COVID-19, based on a thorough risk assessment completed only by Public Health.

“Working together, the Town of The Blue Mountains and Health Unit staff carefully evaluated the situation and implemented immediate measures to mitigate the risk of transmission.” Says Dr. Ian Arra, Medical Officer of Health for Grey Bruce. “The collaboration between the Health Unit and the Town, along with rapid and accurate communication of vital information allowed for a timely, robust, and effective contact tracing process to take place. We thank the Town leadership and staff for their dedication and commitment to health”.

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FAQ About Changes to the Grey Bruce Situation Report



The Grey Bruce Health Unit remains committed to clear and timely communication of data related to the local COVID-19 situation. COVID-19 Daily Situation Reports are released each day and posted to the Grey Bruce Health Unit website. The report is being updated to reflect provincial reporting criteria and definitions. This update will result in some changes in the data that is reported. The FAQ and definition chart below provide descriptions of what the changes are and how each item is defined in the updated situation report. Questions about the Grey Bruce Health Unit's Situation Report can be directed to the COVID-19 helpline at 519-376-9420 extension 3000 or publichealth@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca.

Why are there changes to the way data is reported in the situation report?

The report is being updated to reflect provincial reporting criteria and definitions.

When will the new Situation Report be launched?

The new situation report will be launched on Monday, January 25th, 2021.

Will the reporting window change in the new situation report?

Yes. The report will now include cases as reported from midnight to midnight on the day previous to the situation report release. (e.g. – The situation report released on Tuesday will reflect the data confirmed between 12:00am and 11:59pm on Monday). This should allow for fewer shifts in the data reported due to additional investigation time for case and contact management. On the initial day that the new report comes into effect, there may be a small difference in numbers reported from one day to the next.

Why has the number of total confirmed cases and number of resolved cases changed?

The change in the number of total confirmed cases and resolved cases is mostly because referred cases are no longer being included in this number. People who are referred to other public health units for case and contact management because they do not currently live in Grey Bruce will no longer be included in the total confirmed cases. This has resulted in a significant decrease in the total number of cases and the number of resolved cases. Other factors, such as the change in the reporting window may also have a small impact initially on the total confirmed cases and the resolved cases.

Why has the number of cases among health care workers changed?

The change in the number of cases among health care workers reflects the provincial definition which includes individuals living in Grey Bruce but working in other jurisdictions.

Will any new information be included in the situation report?

Yes. Confirmed Cases Intubated will be added to the Situation Report to reflect individuals who are intubated with invasive ventilation as part of their treatment for COVID-19.

Will any information be removed from the situation report?

Yes. Cases referred to other health units will no longer be reported since people who are not living in Grey Bruce when they become sick will no longer be included among new or total case numbers.

What do each of the items in the situation report mean and how are they defined?

See the table below to learn more about the definition of each item included in the situation report.

Definitions of Items in the Situation Report

Situation Report Item	Definition in the new Situation Report n alignment with the provincial reporting system
New Cases	<p>Cases who are living in Grey Bruce at their time of illness. This does not include those who are referred to another health unit.</p> <p>Note timeline: New cases are counted from midnight to midnight on the day previous to the situation report release. (e.g. – In situation report released on Tuesday, new cases are those that were confirmed between 12:00am and 11:59pm on Monday).</p>
Total Confirmed Cases	Total number of confirmed cases who were living in Grey Bruce at the time of illness. Cases who have a permanent address in Grey Bruce but are living elsewhere are not counted in Grey Bruce total.
Active Cases	Confirmed cases that have not been closed in the provincial reporting system as of midnight the previous day.
Resolved Cases	Confirmed cases that are listed as Closed in the provincial reporting system, excluding any deaths.
Active Probable Cases	Cases listed as “Probable” in the provincial system that are living in Grey Bruce. Probable cases include those who have not had a lab confirmed test for COVID-19, but it has been deemed probable due to other factors.
Confirmed Cases Hospitalized	<p>Confirmed cases who are currently hospitalized</p> <p>Confirmed case with any of the following interventions added in the provincial system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitalization, • ICU, • Isolation in Hospital, • "Non-invasive ventilation (CPAP, BiPAP)", • Ventilated - Not specified. • Intubated with invasive ventilation
Confirmed Cases Intubated	Confirmed cases that are currently hospitalized and intubated with invasive ventilation as part of their treatment for COVID-19.
Active High Risk Contacts	High risk contacts with open investigations assigned to the Grey Bruce Health Unit.

Cases in Health Care Workers	<p>Confirmed cases among healthcare workers. Any of the following occupational risk factors added to the investigation in the provincial system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dental hygienist• Dentist• Doctor• First responder• Health care worker• Hospital• Laboratory worker• Long-term care home• Midwife• Nurse• Other medical technicians• Personal support worker• Respiratory therapist• Retirement home
Deaths	<p>Deaths are noted in the provincial system if a person with COVID-19 dies and this information is known to public health.</p> <p>For surveillance purposes, a COVID-19 death is defined as a death resulting from a clinically compatible illness in a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case, unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that cannot be related to COVID-19 (e.g., trauma).</p>
Active Outbreaks	<p>Active outbreaks in Grey Bruce in long-term care facilities, retirement homes, child care settings, or schools.</p>
Confirmed cases and Active cases by Municipality	<p>Cases are assigned to a municipality based on their current location at the time of their illness.</p>



Media Release

January 22, 2021

Situation Report Automation – The Changes and Why

The Grey Bruce Health Unit has been working to automate the data currently reported in the daily Situation Report. This change will take effect on January 25, 2021. This will result in a shift to align with the data in the provincial CCM (Case and Contact Management) software used by Health Units in Ontario for case and contact management. Grey Bruce Health Unit data reports began in March 2020, the provincial CCM reports did not begin until late summer 2020.

Our daily situation report will have a slightly different look to reflect the changes in the definition of cases and other metrics currently reported. There are changes of note. The report will now cover the 24-hour period from midnight to midnight of the previous day and reflect case totals up to that point. The total number of cases no longer includes cases transferred to other health units. The number of health care workers will include health care workers who live in Grey Bruce but work in other jurisdictions; previously, only health care workers who work in Grey Bruce were being reported. Please see the attached FAQ and table for a full explanation to the definitions.

The current municipal table that shows total, active, probable and recovered cases will also be changed. Instead of a numerical table, a new bar graphic presentation will be used to provide information by county and First Nations.

The new and the historical reports will continue to be viewable on the Grey Bruce Health Unit's [statistical page](#). The daily report will continue to be shared on our [homepage](#) and through direct communication to stakeholders.

Attachment: [FAQ About Changes to the Grey Bruce Situation Report](#)

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Media Release

January 25, 2021

Update - Shipment of COVID-19 Vaccine Proceeding

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is in possession of 600 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine received today and expect delivery of another 700 doses of the vaccine next week. These shipments are to be administered to long-term care, high-risk retirement, and First Nations elder care residents in Grey and Bruce Counties. Residents at the following locations will be vaccinated from today's shipment:

Elgin Abby – Chesley
Parkview Manor - Chesley
Rockwood Terrace - Durham
Country Lane - Chatsworth
Pinecrest Manor - Lucknow

Brucelea Haven - Walkerton
Gateway Haven - Wiarton
Meaford Long-Term Care
Saugeen First Nation
Neyaashiinigmiing First Nation

Next week's shipment will be allocated to the remaining long-term care facilities in Grey Bruce. These two shipment of vaccinations, along with vaccines previously administered, **will complete first dose vaccine coverage for all long-term care residents in Grey Bruce.**

These shipments are coming as part of the Ministry of Health's updated [Vaccination Plan in Response to Pfizer-BioNTech Shipment Delays](#). The Ministry has informed the Grey Bruce Health Unit that the previously announced delivery of the Pfizer vaccine, scheduled for this week, will not be arriving. Stakeholders and system partners have been notified of these changes.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit maintains vaccine administration and planning based on the [The Grey Bruce Health Unit COVID-19 Vaccination Program Plan](#) with a focus on protecting our most vulnerable populations.

We remind the public that we are not at the stage of public vaccinations. We ask the public please do not call to schedule vaccinations at this time. There is no waiting list for the COVID-19 vaccine. Public Health will provide updates to the public when more information is available.

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