



Media Release

March 8, 2021

COVID-19 Associated with Kincardine District Senior School

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with Bluewater District School Board and the school bus company to address a probable case of COVID-19 associated with Kincardine District Senior School in Kincardine, Ontario.

A probable case is defined as an individual with a direct link to a positive case, is symptomatic and has not yet had a confirmed positive COVID-19 test, or has decided not to be tested.

While there is an individual with probable COVID-19 associated with this school, our assessment, to date, indicates that transmission did not take place within the school environment. Currently there are no outbreaks (i.e. evidence of transmission from person to person) in any schools or childcare centres in Grey Bruce. The single bus route involved has been investigated and anyone deemed at high or low-risk has been notified or are in the process of being notified, at this time.

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

Determining who has had close contact is a decision that can only be made by Public Health. Anyone at heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission due to close contact to a person with COVID-19 will be contacted by Public Health within 24 hours of the investigation.

Those NOT contacted by Public Health need not take any additional steps including asymptomatic testing.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit will direct those considered at risk regarding testing requirements and recommendations (e.g., timing). There is no value in anyone being tested before they are notified and instructed to do so by Public Health. Results of early testing are unreliable and place individuals at risk of more testing than is required.

In this situation, the person with probable COVID-19 has been contacted directly by our COVID-19 Case and Contact Management Team. We are working with the individual, Bluewater District School Board and the bus company to identify others, both in and out of the school environment who may have been exposed and determine their risk.

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519-376-9420

1-800-263-3456

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All contact tracing and determination of individual and community risk is made by Public Health. This is true of all cases, whether in schools, workplaces or the community. A health care provider or school official cannot make this decision.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

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



Media Release

March 9, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine Information Update For Week of March 8

The COVID-19 vaccine roll out continues.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit wants to assure those 80+ who do not have a family physician or whose physician is outside Grey Bruce, they will be able to book an appointment at a local clinic as soon as the provincial booking website and booking phone line, both being piloted by the Grey Bruce Health Unit, are operational on March 15.

For week of March 8, [Weekly Vaccine Schedule - March 8](#) will focus on Community Health Care Workers in Highest/Very High Categories; Clients over 80; Clinics within First Nation Communities; SOAHAC clinics for First Nation Clients not living in First Nation Communities.

To book appointments for those 80 years old and older:

- Your healthcare provider will call you if you are over 80 and eligible to receive the vaccine. **You cannot book an appointment by calling your healthcare provider – they will call you.**
- We are working with the organizations providing home care to obtain their client lists. **You cannot book an appointment by calling these agencies – Public Health will call you.**
- For those 80+ years without a family physician and those with a physician outside Grey Bruce, a 1-800 number for booking and a provincial online booking system will be made available March 15, 2021

Those not in this age group, including those with health conditions, are directed to use the provincial booking system following March 15, 2021, based on your order in the [provincial framework](#).

Clinics and other venues where the vaccine will be administered are being developed in venues across the two counties. No appointments are currently available – you will be contacted directly to book your appointment in the coming days/week. Appointments are not available by calling or contacting the Health Unit at this time. Clinic will be available to residents in Grey Bruce as close to their communities as possible.

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Ontario's Phase 2 vaccination rollout is expected to begin in April 2021, depending on vaccine availability. The target populations in Phase 2 are based on *age and risk*. Vaccines will be offered to the following groups:

- Adults aged 60-79, beginning with those 75 years of age and older, and decreasing in five-year increments over the course of the vaccine rollout
- People who live and/or work in high-risk congregate settings (e.g. shelters, community living) as well as some primary caregivers
- Individuals with high-risk chronic health conditions and some primary caregivers of those with highest risk health conditions
- People who live in hot spots with high rates of death, hospitalizations and transmission of infection
- Certain workers who cannot work from home, including but not limited to first responders, education workers and those in the food processing industry

The Grey Bruce Health Unit staff will provide the clinics with the supply of vaccine, the registration of all patients and receipts for proof of vaccine.

Be reassured that all eligible persons will be reached through mainstream media, social media, media releases, and various partnering communication networks. Continue to watch local media for updates as the vaccine rolls out to different priority populations.

To stay up to date, please continue to visit the Public Health Unit's website at:

[COVID-19 Vaccines \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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

Kelly Lush

From: Dr. Arra, Ian (MOH) <I.Arra@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca>
Sent: March-11-21 3:21 PM
To: Dr. Arra, Ian (MOH)
Cc: Drew Ferguson
Subject: Grey Bruce Public Health COVID-19 Resources and Information: March 11 2021



As part of our on-going efforts to keep you up-to-date on COVID-19 related information, we are providing resources and links that may be useful for you and your organization.

*Please be advised you are receiving this email notification based on previous electronic communications with the Grey Bruce Health Unit and/or our community partners. **If you not wish to receive these communication updates from Grey Bruce Public Health, please email: a.gaviller@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca***

March 11, 2021

Here are links to some COVID-19 resources/information you may find useful. Many of these items are available on the [GBHU website](#) and may be shared publicly. If you have any questions, please call the Help Line At: 519-376-9420 ext 3000

Please note: The Grey Bruce Public Health website has been updated to include dedicated COVID-19 webpages for [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#). The new COVID-19 Vaccine section provides specific information for currently available information about the COVID-19 vaccine. At this time, we are not booking appointments or immunizing the general public. **Please do not call in an attempt to book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment.** We will announce when we are at that stage – anticipated to be late spring to summer of 2021. Until that time, we will work with system partners to vaccinate priority groups based on the provincial [vaccination framework](#).

1. [Getting a COVID-19 vaccine in Ontario | COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) in Ontario](#)
2. [COVID-19 Associated with Kincardine District Senior School Mar 9](#) – Media Release
3. [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Update For Week of March 8](#) – Media Release
4. [Grey Bruce Health Unit Attestation Form for Return to School or Childcare following Illness](#) – updated
5. [COVID-19 Vaccine Phases](#) - updated
6. [Grey Bruce Vaccine Task Force Meeting Summary February 10, 2021](#)
7. [Weekly Vaccine Schedule](#) - March 8
8. [Grey Bruce Vaccine Hub Step by Step Tour](#) - YouTube
9. [Vaccine Progress March 8 \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](#)
10. OPHA COVID-19 Summary of Key Developments for March 6th (*below Social Media links*)

For additional school reopening resources please visit:

<https://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/COVID-19/School-Reopening-2020>

For information from your local school board visit:

Bluewater District School Board

https://www.bwdsb.on.ca/spotlight/COVID_19_updates/return_to_school

Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board <https://www.bgcdsb.org/>

**If you have any questions, please call the Help Line At:
519-376-9420 ext 3000**

Follow the Grey Bruce Health Unit on Social Media:



[Facebook:](#) Grey Bruce Health Unit



[Twitter:](#) GBPublicHealth



[Instagram:](#) gbpublichealth



[YouTube:](#) GreyBruceHealthUnit

OPHA COVID-19 Key Developments **March 6**

Provincial Developments:

- Health Minister Elliott confirmed the province will receive 194,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine today. Bookings are expected to start this Friday and a list of pharmacies that will be administering the AstraZeneca vaccine will be made publicly available on Wednesday.
- Ontario has released a list of [24 underlying health conditions](#) that qualify people for the early COVID-19 shots.
- One of two [mobile field hospitals with 100 patient beds](#) promised by the federal government is in the process of being set up outside Toronto's Sunnybrook hospital.
- Recently [released transcripts of testimony from doctors, as part of the Commission's investigation on COVID-19 in Ontario's long-term care system, suggest the province "chose" not to hire additional long-term care staff](#) or infection-control practitioners, calling the proposals "too expensive."

- The media have pointed out [a discrepancy between the ICU numbers reported by Critical Care Services Ontario and Ontario Ministry of Health](#), namely that the provincial number removes people from the list after two weeks of illness.

Federal Developments:

- Prime Minister Trudeau indicated that Johnson & Johnson are having challenges around production of the Janssen vaccine and no delivery date has been confirmed as yet.
- The Canadian Constitution Foundation has mounted [a legal challenge against the federal mandated quarantine hotel policy](#) arguing the requirements are "overbroad, arbitrary and grossly disproportionate."
- Canada's Chief Public Health Officer recommends that "Canadians should be having the fewest number of interactions with the fewest number of people for the shortest time from the greatest distance possible, wearing the best fitting mask."
- Various countries are looking at introducing a vaccination passport despite concerns about privacy, equity and human rights. [Insiders say](#) that Prime Minister Trudeau is taking his time, weighing the pros and cons and looking for more evidence to support such a move.

More details are included below along with an update on cases in Ontario and across Canada.

Provincial Developments:

COVID-19 Vaccine Booking Systems and Interval between Doses:

- Ontario has released a list of 24 underlying health conditions that qualify people for the early COVID-19 shots. Proof of a pre-existing health condition will not be required to access a COVID-19 vaccine, despite concerns from health experts of "queue jumping."
- Health Minister Elliott said some public health units with their own booking portal may not be transitioned into the provincial booking system coming next week. For example, Solicitor General Jones confirmed at least six public health units will continue to use their own vaccination booking systems after the provincial portal becomes operational on March 15th.
- The Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) will be extending the maximum time between doses for local residents to 112 days, or 16 weeks. MLHU released a statement confirming "in a memo sent to all Medical Officers of Health, Dr. David Williams indicated that extending the time between doses would increase the number of individuals benefiting from a first dose of vaccine in the context of a limited COVID-19 vaccine supply."

Federal Developments:

Emergence of Variants, COVID-19 Vaccine and Public Health Measures:

- So far, over 2,370 variants of concern cases (↑331 since Mar.7), including 2,217 (↑312) B.1.1.7, 136 (↑15) B.1.351 and 17 (+4) P.1 variants have been reported, with numbers highest in Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec, respectively.
- Prime Minister Trudeau confirmed that Canada received almost one million COVID-19 vaccine doses last week, and another million are expected this week.
- Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Tam addressed concerns raised by researchers at the University Health Network over the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's recommendations to increase the interval between messenger RNA COVID-19 vaccine doses to four months that suggest it is "a population-level experiment." She noted there is "increasing evidence of the efficacy" of a first dose to

provide strong protection and help slow mortality rates and argued it is paramount to offer it to as many people as possible. As the vaccine supply increases the interval of four months could be reduced.

- In response to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention release of guidance for how fully vaccinated people can ease out of public health measures, Dr. Tam indicated that Canada “will also be looking at some of these kinds of adjustments when it is safe to do so [however] we are currently experiencing considerable community-level transmission at the moment.” She said that “we will know pretty [soon.as](#) to whether we are able to keep the variants at manageable proportions while vaccines escalate....which is why now is not the time to sort of make too many shifts in the public health measures at this time. But we will be able to do so based on what actually happens next.”

Trends and Cases in Ontario, Canada, and First Nations on Reserve:

Cases Among First Nations on Reserve:

As of March 8th, Indigenous Services Canada was aware of these confirmed cases of COVID-19 for First Nations communities:

- 22,368 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 1,223 active cases
- 1,021 hospitalizations
- 20,897 recovered cases
- 248 deaths

Cases in Ontario: (March 8th as of 10:30am)

- Total number of cases: 311,112; an increase of 1,185
- Most newly confirmed cases are concentrated in three public health unit regions (e.g. 343 new cases in Toronto, 235 in Peel and 105 in York Region)
- So far, 908 cases of the B.1.1.1.7 (United Kingdom) virus variant have been reported, 39 cases of the B.1.3.5.1 (South Africa) virus variant and 17 cases of the P.1 (Brazilian) virus variant.
- Resolved: 292,806 (94.1%); an increase of 972
- Deaths: sadly, 7,083 people have died; an increase of 6 people
- Hospitalized: 689 people were hospitalized; 290 were in intensive care and of those, 184 were on a ventilator.
- Long-term care homes (according to iPHIS): 85 active outbreaks; 56 active cases in residents; 136 active cases in staff; 3,748 deaths among residents and 11 among staff
- Lab testing: 11,469,681 completed; 33,264 tests were completed yesterday; while the backlog of tests waiting to be completed is 29,845.
- As of 10:30 a.m. today, [943,533 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered](#), including 31,047 doses on Monday; with a total of 276,193 people fully vaccinated.

Cases in Canada: (March 8th as of 7pm)

- Total number of cases: 890,698; an increase of 3,043
- Deaths: 22,276
- People tested per million: 665,069
- Percent Positivity: 3.7%



Sincerely,

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
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Vision: A healthier future for all.

Mission: Working with Grey Bruce communities to protect and promote health.

Core Values: Effective communication, Partnership, Respectful Relationships, Quality and Innovation, Integrity, Leadership

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Media Release

March 11, 2021

COVID-19 Associated with School – Update

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with Bluewater District School Board to address a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, associated with Highpoint Community School, in the Township of Southgate, Ontario.

While there is an individual with confirmed COVID-19 associated with this school, our assessment, to date, indicates that transmission did not take place within the school environment. There is strong evidence that transmission occurred outside of the school. Currently there are no outbreaks (i.e. evidence of transmission from person to person) in any schools or childcare centres in Grey Bruce. No bus routes of any schools are involved with this case.

In this situation, the individual with COVID-19 has been contacted directly by our COVID-19 Case and Contact Management Team. We have worked with the individual and the school, along with the school board and have identified all others, both in and out of the school environment, who may have been exposed and have determined their risk level. Any cohorts that have been identified as contacts to the case have been excluded from school at this time.

Those NOT contacted by Public Health need not take any additional steps including asymptomatic testing.

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

Determining who has had close contact is a decision that can only be made by Public Health. Anyone at heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission due to close contact to a person with COVID-19 will be contacted by Public Health within 24 hours of the investigation.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit will direct those considered at risk regarding testing requirements and recommendations (e.g., timing). There is no value in anyone being tested before they are notified and instructed to do so by Public Health. Results of early testing are unreliable and place individuals at risk of more testing than is required.

As a reminder to the public, if you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please proceed to your nearest assessment centre for testing.

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For More Information:

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Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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Media Release

March 10, 2021

COVID-19 Exposure Associated with Restaurant in Southampton

Walker House Southampton February 23, 2021

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is currently investigating COVID-19 cases associated with the Walker House Restaurant in Southampton, Ontario. There is evidence of transmission of COVID-19 between patrons within the restaurant.

Public Health advises anyone who visited the Walker House on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, to seek testing at the nearest COVID-19 assessment centre.

In addition to the identified cases, there is a potential risk of transmission to patrons who dined at the Walker House Restaurant in Southampton on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. While Public Health has directly contacted the individuals identified as close contacts, there remains unknown patrons who visited the restaurant on this date. Anyone who attended the restaurant on February 23 is asked to seek testing. Additionally, anyone who attended the restaurant on February 23 and is experiencing symptoms is asked to call Public Health at 1-800-263-3456 ext. 3000.

Individuals tested in connection with this investigation are not required to isolate but should limit their activities to essential outings until they have received a negative result.

The patrons' risk is limited to those who visited the premise on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. There is no additional risk to individuals who dined at the restaurant on any other day. The facility remains open and is working with Public Health to ensure all patrons' and staff's safety.

Restaurant management have been working in conjunction with Grey Bruce Health Unit to enhance their internal practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The practices implemented by the Walker House now exceed the minimum requirements put in place by the province to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in hospitality settings.

Public Health is the leader in all outbreaks and case management. Determining who is at risk is a decision that Public Health can only make. Public Health makes all contact tracing and determination of individual and community risk. This is true of all cases, whether in schools, workplaces or the community. A health care provider or employer cannot make this decision.

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If you have questions, please call the health unit at 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456

- For questions about testing, please contact the COVID Infoline at x3000.
- For questions about restaurant practices, please contact the Public Health Inspector Information Line at x3402.

For More Information:

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Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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Message from MOH – Advising against COVID-19 testing with no symptoms or reason

As a father of one, I understand everyone's concerns about having children go back to school during the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to let you know that we have been actively engaged with Public and Catholic School Boards, and the private and rural schools throughout Grey and Bruce. For the most up to date information, please visit [our website](#) or contact your school to see their plans.

Feeling anxious, you may want to take your child or children to get tested for COVID-19, just to be sure they do not have it. I want to explain to all parents that if there are no symptoms, and no close link to a confirmed case (as decided by local public health) then there is no practical benefit to getting your children tested. There is, however, potential harm. Let me explain.

1. Testing for COVID-19 can be a difficult event for some children. Like any other clinical test, there is the potential for complications, one of which is potential long-term anxiety that could negatively affect a child's mental health.
2. False reassurance is another harm. Testing someone who has no symptoms only lets them know that on the day they were tested, they were not shedding the virus. It is very possible to test negative one day (while incubating the virus), and then develop symptoms and test positive in a day or so. It is not a bulletproof way to say that you or your child is COVID-19 free.
3. Testing in people that have no symptoms can result in false positives. A false positive may cause significant and unintended anxiety in families linked to the false positive. Self-isolation, inability to attend work, and fear/anxiety are real outcomes of a false positive. Imagine getting a call from Public Health letting you know that you and your family have been exposed to COVID-19, when in fact you were not? Now imagine that this happens to a number of families as their children attend the same class or school. This is not acceptable in my mind, and could cause significant harm. To that end, as the Grey Bruce Medical Officer of Health, it is important to share that there are no practical benefits of mass testing of asymptomatic individuals and that potential harms are paramount. I made an oath based on the first principle in practicing medicine - the principle of "Do no harm".
4. Testing people with no symptoms puts undue pressure on provincial testing capacity and delays the results for people that actually do have symptoms. Delays in receiving results can pose significant risk to facilities that may be battling true outbreaks.

Getting a COVID-19 test would be appropriate and strongly recommended only in the following two scenarios:

1. Public Health has let you know that you are a Close Contact to someone who has COVID-19, based on a thorough risk assessment completed only by Public Health. Deciding who is a close contact is a decision that can only be made by Public Health. This decision cannot be made by your health care provider or school official(s).
2. Your health care provider has told you to get tested because you have COVID-19 related symptoms.

If neither of these situations exists, testing would NOT be suggested, and in fact, Public Health strongly recommends against it.

If there is a case in your child's school or class, that, in and of itself is not a reason to get tested. If there is potential that you were a close contact to a person with COVID-19, Public Health will call and advise you. If you do not get a call from Public Health, you DO NOT need to get tested. I fully appreciate that if you find out there was a case in your child's school, your anxiety may be elevated. Rest assured that we will notify you if you or your child need testing, and will do everything in our power to keep the children and staff in that school safe.

We work together with school officials before and during the school year to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of both the children and staff in the schools remain our priority and that everything we do reflects that objective.

I would never have my child tested without proper cause. As a parent and Medical Officer of Health, I would only consent to testing if my child had symptoms and had been assessed by their health care practitioner, or was considered a Close Contact and directed by Public Health to do so.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

A father and MOH, Dr. Ian Arra

September 10, 2020



Media Release

March 11, 2021

COVID-19 Testing in Grey Bruce Schools

We received multiple inquiries on whether the Grey Bruce Health Unit has changed its recommendations on testing, especially in schools.

We would like to remind the community, and emphasize that, our recommendations for testing remain unchanged and consistent with the science and best practice.

With the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in Grey Bruce, COVID-19 testing is only appropriate, and strongly recommended, in the following two scenarios:

1. You have COVID-19 related symptoms
2. Public Health has let you know that you are a Close Contact to someone who has COVID-19, based on a thorough risk assessment completed only by Public Health. Determining who is a close contact is a decision that can only be made by Public Health.

Attached please find an Open Letter sent by the Medical Officer of Health to all parents and grandparents in Grey Bruce on September 10, 2020. The letter identifies:

- Testing for COVID-19 can be a difficult event for some children. Like any other clinical test, there is the potential for complications, one of which is potential long-term anxiety that could negatively affect a child's mental health.
- False reassurance is another harm. Testing someone who has no symptoms only lets them know that on the day they were tested, they were not shedding the virus. It is very possible to test negative one day (while incubating the virus), and then develop symptoms and test positive in a day or so. It is not a bulletproof way to say that you or your child is COVID-19 free.
- Testing in people that have no symptoms can result in false positives. A false positive may cause significant and unintended anxiety in families linked to the false positive. Self-isolation, inability to attend work, and fear/anxiety are real outcomes of a false positive. This should be avoided based on the first principle in practicing medicine - "Do no harm".

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The recent initiative to provide **voluntary** in-school asymptomatic COVID-19 testing for students can be beneficial in areas with high rates of cases. However, due to the low case counts in Grey and Bruce, asymptomatic testing is not recommended by the Grey Bruce Health Unit.

Below is a link to fully explain who should be tested.

[Testing infosheet \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

For more information on COVID-19 in general, please visit the Grey Bruce Health Unit website at [Grey Bruce Public Health Homepage \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca).

For More Information:

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Media Release

March 12, 2021

Online Booking for COVID-19 Vaccine

Beginning Monday, March 15, those turning 80 this year or older, born 1941 or earlier, will be able to make appointments through the provincial on-line booking system for COVID-19 vaccinations. For those without access to the internet, a toll-free 1-833 number will be release by the province at the same time to manage appointments via telephone.

You don't need a doctor but you must be in the 80 or older age category. If you are not in this age range, please wait your turn. Appointment availability is based on the [prioritization framework](#) from the Province of Ontario. Only call or go online when your age group or specific eligibility is announced. The system will automatically decline the request if it does not meet eligibility requirements.

The number of clinics is based on the supply of vaccine. Initially, the three Hockey Hub mass immunization centres and several smaller community-based clinics will be available to book your appointment based on the availability of the vaccine. More sites will be added to the booking system as larger shipments of vaccine arrive.

Do not call public health or your healthcare provider for an appointment. Appointments can only be made by going online or by calling the toll free number. The booking website and phone number will be available as of Monday March 15. Please keep an eye out to announcements for this website and number.

For More Information:

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Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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Reflecting on the One Year Anniversary of COVID-19 in Grey Bruce

We are in the midst of exceptional, once-in-a-lifetime circumstances.

It was on March 18 last year Grey Bruce saw the initial cases of COVID-19. Those first few cases were all travel-related. Ten days in, the tenth case for the region became the first attributed to community transmission.

Infectious diseases are the origins of public health. A pandemic is something public health is trained and ready to respond.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit invoked its emergency response. A command structure, similar to the military, was set up to oversee and implement. Many everyday functions of public health were put on hold with people and resources re-deployed. Staff, managers and the Medical Officer of Health focussed on the new threat.

Everyone in Public Health is continually adapting to the new realities and challenges. COVID-19 programs are running seven-days-a-week with extended hours. Dental educators are now experts in contact tracing. IT is developing a mass immunization registration system. Public Health Nurses are managing exceptional caseloads. Inspectors are working with partners to ensure compliance. The list goes on.

The communications team are keeping everyone informed at every stage. Based on a foundation of transparency, the open lines of two-way communication and a strong social and mainstream media presence are fundamental to a robust level of public engagement.

Managers have been taking on new roles to ensure staff have the resources they need for success. They are leading contact and case management teams, vaccine teams, rolling out immunization clinics, and connecting and working with key partners in virtually every sector. Manager portfolios rotate regularly to ensure back up is always available.

Dr. Arra has worked every day at the helm since the first cases were identified. Over the past year, he has put in the long, hard hours, almost doubling his regular hours, working around the clock at certain critical times. At one point, he opted to forgo sedative for a surgical procedure to allow him to return to work immediately. He has taken the lead in the emergency, anticipating, planning and implementing our over-all response.

Dr. Arra is a physician specialist trained in population health; this is his area of expertise. It is clear that we are all benefitting from his proficiency. His leadership, in mobilizing the community and partners, public and private, to volunteer and invest resources in a collaborative and unified response, places Grey Bruce in the enviable position of consistently having one of the lowest COVID-19 case and deaths counts in the province. What price can you put on lives saved?

A healthier future for all.

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www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Dr. Arra has proved as a visionary. His concept of the hockey hub mass immunization centre is an entirely different way of approaching the challenges of immunizing large numbers of people. His revolutionary concept is drawing attention and proving itself in use across Canada.

Dr. Arra spent nights away from his family working with system partners, community leaders, and concerned citizens' alike, using their input in the emergency response plan. Dr. Arra has the confidence and the respect of the people of Grey Bruce earning the title Grey Bruce Top Doctor. In the current circumstances, many look upon him as their doctor.

Yours truly,

Ms. Sue Paterson,
Chair, Board of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit
101 17th Street East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 0A5
Phone: (519) 376-9420, Ext. 1241



Media Release

March 13, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine – Time Extended Between Doses

The Grey Bruce Health Unit has received notice from the Ministry of Health of a change to the spacing between the first and second dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine. The interval between first and second dose is extended to 16 weeks.

Based on the limited supply of vaccine, the extended time will allow more people to get their initial dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The change is in line with direction from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization. This 16-week interval for the second dose applies to the two-dose vaccines currently approved by Health Canada (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD).

There is no change to the second dose vaccine schedule for the following:

- Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, elder care lodges and assisted living facilities; and,
- First Nation communities and First Nation individuals living outside of First Nation communities.

For those that book on-line, second dose appointments, in line with this 16-week interval, can be made at the same time that you book your initial appointment.

For those that have already received the first dose, Public Health will coordinate and provide notice of second dose in the same way as the first dose. These doses will be scheduled with this new 16-week interval.

To remain up to date on vaccine administration process, progress, and for all plans related to the vaccine rollout in Grey and Bruce, please visit:

[COVID-19 Vaccines \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

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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Fax 519-376-0605



Media Release

March 14, 2021

On-line Booking for COVID-19 Vaccine Goes Active March 15

Beginning 8:00 a.m., Monday, March 15, those turning 80 this year or older, born 1941 or earlier, can make appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations through the provincial on-line booking system at <https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine>. For those without access to the internet, the toll-free number 1-888-999-6488 will enable appointments via telephone.

You don't need a doctor but you must be in the 80 or older age category. If you are not in this age range, please wait your turn. Appointment availability is based on the [prioritization framework](#) from the Province of Ontario. Only call or go online when your age group or specific eligibility is announced. The system will automatically decline the request if it does not meet eligibility requirements.

The number of clinics is based on the supply of vaccine. Initially, the three Hockey Hub mass immunization centres and several smaller community-based clinics will be available to book your appointment based on the availability of the vaccine. More sites will be added to the booking system as larger shipments of vaccine arrive.

Do not call public health or your healthcare provider for an appointment. Appointments can only be made by going on-line to <https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine> or by calling the toll free number 1-888-999-6488.

For more information about Vaccines in Ontario, please call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line: 1-888-999-6488; Hours of Operation: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Monday-Sunday

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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Fax 519-376-0605



Media Release

March 15, 2021

Issues with On-line and Phone Booking for COVID-19 Vaccine

The Grey Bruce Health Unit has received reports from individuals unable to use the provincial on-line and toll-free phone line vaccine booking system.

The provincial on-line system does not reflect the current vaccine clinic schedule in Grey Bruce; this may result in errors in appointments being booked.

The provincial phone system defaults to sending clients to the Grey Bruce Health Unit to book appointments. However, the provincial system is not set up to allow the Grey Bruce Health Unit to make appointments and the resulting calls are overwhelming our phone system. Additionally, some callers are being directed to the Simcoe Muskoka 211 Community Connections helpline, which has no information on Grey Bruce. Do not call public health or your healthcare provider for an appointment, even if directed to by the provincial booking operator.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with the province to address these issues. Other health units are experiencing similar issues.

Do not call public health or your healthcare provider for an appointment, even if directed to by the provincial booking operator. Once technical issues have been resolved, appointments can be made on-line to <https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine> or through the provincial toll free number 1-888-999-6488.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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

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Media Release

March 16, 2021

Issues Resolved with On-line and Phone Booking for COVID-19 Vaccine

Issues experienced by some individuals unable to use the provincial on-line and toll-free phone line vaccine booking system are now resolved.

There has been robust communication between the Grey Bruce Health Unit and the operators of the provincial on-line system to address the issues within hours.

We are pleased to report 1,500 appointments booked in Grey Bruce on the first day. That used up all available clinic times. Additional clinics and times are being added as more vaccine becomes available.

We thank the public for observing the parameters with respect to the appropriate eligibility when using the system.

For those eligible, appointments can be made on-line at <https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine> or through the provincial toll free number 1-888-999-6488.

Do not call public health or your healthcare provider for an appointment. We thank you for your patience. We ask to please stay tuned to our messaging when the next age groups will be eligible to use the system.

For More Information:

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Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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Media Release

March 17, 2021

Green Does Not Mean Everything Goes

Grey Bruce is in the [Green- Prevent Zone](#) in the Ontario COVID-19 response framework. There remain limits on activity to prevent spread of the COVID-19 virus. Individuals should not be gathering in uncontrolled situations.

Residents are reminded staying home is still the best way to protect yourself and others. You are strongly advised to:

- stay home as much as possible
- avoid social gatherings
- limit close contacts to your household
- work from home if possible, and allow your employees to work from home if they can
- maintain two metre physical distancing
- avoid travel except for essential reasons; essential includes:
 - going for food or medications
 - going to work – if it can't be done at home
 - going for healthcare services
 - supporting vulnerable community members
 - going to childcare or school
 - getting exercise or walking pets

Observe limits of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors for all organized public events, social gatherings and wedding, funeral and religious ceremonies.

Wear a face covering or mask:

- indoors, any time you are within two metres of someone outside your household
- if physical distancing cannot be maintained
- if wearing one is required
- whenever face-to-face with someone outside of your household, especially if you are within two metres.

Grey-Bruce statistics, to date, indicate that schools are safe environments. The positive outcomes of in-person learning and socialization eclipse the low risk of COVID-19 acquisition in the controlled environment of schools. Implementing robust public health measures such as physical distancing, cleaning practices, direct observation, enhanced screening measures, and wearing a mask correctly all contribute to that success.

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Fax 519-376-0605

Remember, not all of the protective measures in schools are in place outside the school environment.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

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



Media Release

March 18, 2021

Green Does Not Mean Everything Goes

Grey Bruce is in the [Green- Prevent Zone](#) in the Ontario COVID-19 response framework. There remain limits on activity to prevent spread of the COVID-19 virus. Individuals should not be gathering in uncontrolled situations.

Residents are reminded staying home is still the best way to protect yourself and others.

You are strongly advised to:

- stay home as much as possible
- avoid social gatherings
- limit close contacts to your household
- work from home if possible, and allow your employees to work from home if they can
- maintain two metre physical distancing
- avoid travel except for essential reasons; essential includes:
 - going for food or medications
 - going to work – if it can't be done at home
 - going for healthcare services
 - supporting vulnerable community members
 - going to childcare or school
 - getting exercise or walking pets

Observe limits set forth in the [Provincial Framework](#):

- [Events and social gatherings in private homes, backyards or parks \(for example, barbeques\)](#):
 - Indoors: 10 people
 - Outside: 25 people
- [Organized public events and gatherings in staffed businesses and facilities \(for example, event spaces\)](#):
 - Indoors: 50 people
 - Outside: 100 people
- [Religious, wedding and funeral services](#):
 - Indoors: 30% capacity
 - Outside: 100 people

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Wear a face covering or mask:

- indoors, any time you are within two metres of someone outside your household
- if physical distancing cannot be maintained
- if wearing one is required
- whenever face-to-face with someone outside of your household, especially if you are within two metres.

Grey-Bruce statistics, to date, indicate that schools are safe environments. The positive outcomes of in-person learning and socialization eclipse the low risk of COVID-19 acquisition in the controlled environment of schools. Implementing robust public health measures such as physical distancing, cleaning practices, direct observation, enhanced screening measures, and wearing a mask correctly all contribute to that success. Remember, not all of the protective measures in schools are in place outside the school environment.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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Media Release

March 19, 2021

Opioid Overdose Alert- Third fatal this week

There has been another fatal overdose, making this the third fatal opioid overdose this week, pending coroner confirmation. This continues an ongoing trend of multiple overdoses with at least eight fatal overdoses this year in communities across Grey Bruce. It is assumed that fentanyl or carfentanil are involved. In one situation, a grey chalk-like product is suspected to be the cause. Other reports indicate substances of differing colors, including yellow, purple, green, and pink.

Current reports indicate that smoking these products is causing near instant collapse and in some cases, death.

All street drugs should be deemed highly toxic, and FATAL

People that use drugs are at significant risk of overdose due to the local street drug supply containing the highly toxic drug Fentanyl and/or Carfentanil. People must assume that **any and all** drugs purchased on the street contain Fentanyl or Carfentanil (100 X stronger than fentanyl) and considered extremely toxic.

“Eight families have lost a loved one this year alone. We ask that anyone working with people that use drugs to please alert them to this. We also ask parents to make sure you talk to your children about this dangerous epidemic.” Says Ian Reich, Harm Reduction Manager. “We have unfortunately heard news of parties where youth are experimenting with this street drug, assuming Naloxone will save them. In recent cases, multiple doses of Naloxone were not sufficient to reverse the overdose, and as such, someone lost their family member. Please talk to your children about this danger – and if you don’t know how to talk to them, call me, I will talk to them... they need to be aware, we all need to be aware.”

We urge people that use drugs to do so as safely as possible by following some Harm Reduction strategies:

- Avoid using alone.
 - When using with someone else, avoid using at the same time.
 - Call the Overdose Prevention Line at 1-888-688-6677 (NORS) if you must use alone
- Avoid mixing different drugs.

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- Mixing drugs, including alcohol, increases the risk of overdose.
- Go slow.
 - Use smaller amounts and do test doses to check the strength of the drug.
- Know your tolerance.
 - If using after a period of not using – use less.
- Get overdose prevention training and carrying a Naloxone kit.
- Overdose is a medical emergency. Call 911 or go to the Emergency Department.
- The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act provides protection from simple possession charges when 911 is called for an overdose.

The Overdose Prevention Line, 1-888-688-6677, is a vital phone service for people that are using drugs alone. It provides a live, safe contact while using alone. An operator will stay on the line with the user while the drug is used. In the event the user becomes unresponsive, the Prevention Line operator will call 911 to make sure help arrives.

If you know of a toxic drug, please report it by calling 211. The operator will fill out a form and it will then go to Public Health to action and alert the community.

If you have kids, please make sure they are aware of the lethality of the street drug supply at the moment.

Naloxone and safe drug use equipment is available at the Health Unit M-F 8:30am-4:00pm, and through our participating sites. Call the Health Unit for details, or call 211.

For additional Addiction Services:

- ConnexOntario 1-866-531-2600
- Withdrawal Management/RAAM Clinic (Rapid Access Addiction Medicine Clinic) 519-376-5666
- G&B House 519-376-9495
- Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre 519-371-0007
- CMHA Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addiction Services 519-371-3642
- Mental Health Crisis Line Grey Bruce 1-877-470-5200
- Overdose Prevention Line: 1-888-853-8542
- <https://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/Your-Health/Harm-Reduction>
- If unsure – call 211

For More Information:

Ian Reich, RN, BScN, EMBA
Public Health Manager
Population Health, Sexual Health, Harm Reduction
Grey Bruce Health Unit
101 17th Street East, Owen Sound, N4K 0A5
519-376-9420 ext. 1414
I.Reich@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Kelly Lush

From: Dr. Arra, Ian (MOH) <I.Arra@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca>
Sent: March-19-21 3:50 PM
To: Dr. Arra, Ian (MOH)
Subject: FW: Manitoba News Release: New Process for Vaccine Delivery to be Piloted at Morden, Winnipeg Super

Good new,
The Government of Manitoba is utilizing our Grey Bruce Health Unit Hockey Hub model ! (highlighted in yellow below)
Thanks to all our partners,
Cheers,
Ian

Sincerely,

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
Grey Bruce Health Unit
101 17th Street East
Owen Sound ON N4K 0A5
Phone: (519)376-9420, Ext. 1241 Fax: (519)376-0605
I.Arra@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca
www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

From:
Sent: March 19, 2021 1:14 PM
To: Dr. Arra, Ian (MOH) <I.Arra@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca>
Subject: FW: Manitoba News Release: New Process for Vaccine Delivery to be Piloted at Morden, Winnipeg Super

[EXTERNAL]: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

FYI

From: News Media Services <nmservices@leg.gov.mb.ca>
Sent: March 19, 2021 11:38 AM
To:
Subject: Manitoba News Release: New Process for Vaccine Delivery to be Piloted at Morden, Winnipeg Super



March 19, 2021

NEW PROCESS FOR VACCINE DELIVERY TO BE PILOTED AT MORDEN, WINNIPEG SUPER SITES

- - -

New Process to Improve Patient Comfort, Increase Number of Vaccinations Provided Daily: Pallister

MORDEN—When the Morden super site opens on March 22, COVID-19 vaccine providers will be piloting a new process that is easier and more comfortable for patients, while also significantly increasing the number of vaccines that can be provided in a day, Premier Brian Pallister and Health and Seniors Care Minister Heather Stefanson announced following a tour of the new site here today.

“I want to commend our Vaccine Implementation Task Force for its continued efforts to build a flexible vaccine roll-out plan that is focused on providing life-saving vaccines to as many Manitobans as quickly and safely as possible,” said Pallister. “The pilot will test a new model that aims to provide better patient care, which is especially important for vulnerable Manitobans accessing these sites, as it can be a difficult and overwhelming process.”

Currently, people visiting a super site to be immunized walk from the registration desk to a waiting area, to the immunization room and finally to a post-immunization observation area. The immunizer is responsible for reconstituting the vaccine and drawing it into the needle, delivering the vaccine and checking and updating a client’s immunization records. With these additional responsibilities, immunizers are able to provide six to eight immunizations per hour.

In the new process, people will enter the site, register and be escorted to a station, where a staff member will come to them to review their consent form. Some staff will be assigned to reconstitute and fill the needles with vaccine to accelerate the process, while other staff members will focus on checking and updating immunization records.

Immunizers will move from client to client with a cart of supplies, meaning they are able to focus on immunizing. This is expected to vastly increase the number

of immunizations they can complete in an hour, but the overall effect of this change is part of what will be evaluated in the pilot project.

The new model also significantly improves client experience as they stay in one place, with clinic staff coming to them. This is especially beneficial for people with mobility or other accessibility needs. The total time each person spends in the clinic is also expected to decrease, on average to 25 minutes from 45 minutes. This includes a required 15-minute, post-immunization recovery period.

“We have learned from the success of our Focused Immunization Teams and from other jurisdictions to develop this model,” said Stefanson. “They divide up different tasks to make things run more quickly and efficiently, particularly when FIT members visited each patient in their room at personal care homes and other congregate living facilities. The goal is to expand that success on a larger scale. This will allow for more rapid turnover between clients and less waiting, which will allow us to immunize more people every day and get the vaccine to more Manitobans sooner.”

The premier noted the approach will also be tested at the RBC Convention Centre super site in Winnipeg beginning next week. It was inspired by the ‘hockey hub’ model used in part of Ontario and adapted to reflect Manitoba’s experiences with Focused Immunization Teams and the immunization effort here to date.

“The more vaccine we deliver, the more we learn how to improve our processes and ramp up delivery, just as vaccine delivery is poised to ramp up from the federal government,” said Pallister. “We will continue to learn from our experiences and best practices from across the country to increase our capacity to deliver life-saving vaccines and protect Manitobans from COVID-19.”

For more information on Manitoba’s COVID-19 vaccine program, to review the eligibility criteria or to book an appointment online, visit <https://protectmb.ca>.

For more information:

- Public information, contact Manitoba Government Inquiry: 1-866-626-4862 or 204-945-3744.
- Media requests for general information, contact Communications Services Manitoba: 204-945-3765.
- Media requests for ministerial comment, contact Communications and Stakeholder Relations: 204-945-4916.

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Vision: A healthier future for all.

Mission: Working with Grey Bruce communities to protect and promote health.

Core Values: Effective communication, Partnership, Respectful Relationships, Quality and Innovation, Integrity, Leadership

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Media Release

March 21, 2021

COVID-19 Exposure Associated with Bar in Owen Sound

The Pub Owen Sound March 17 & 18, 2021

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is currently investigating a COVID-19 case associated with The Pub at 1005 2nd Ave East in Owen Sound, Ontario. Currently, there is no evidence of transmission of COVID-19 between patrons within the bar.

There is a potential risk of transmission to patrons who attended at the bar on the evenings of Wednesday, March 17, and Thursday March 18, 2021.

Public Health advises anyone who visited the The Pub on the evenings of Wednesday, March 17 and Thursday, March 18, 2021, to seek testing at the nearest COVID-19 assessment centre any date between March 25 and March 27.

There is no value in anyone being tested before they are instructed to do so by Public Health. Results of early testing are unreliable and place individuals at risk of more testing than is required.

While Public Health has directly contacted the individuals identified as close contacts, there remains unknown patrons who visited the bar on these dates. Anyone who attended the bar on the evenings of Wednesday, March 17, and Thursday, March 18, 2021, is asked to seek testing at the nearest COVID-19 assessment centre any date between March 25 and March 27. Additionally, anyone who attended the bar on the evenings of Wednesday, March 17, and Thursday March 18, 2021, and is experiencing symptoms is asked to call Public Health at 1-800-263-3456 ext. 3000.

Individuals tested in connection with this investigation are not required to isolate but should limit their activities to essential outings until they have received a negative result.

The patrons' risk is limited to those who visited the premise on the evenings of Wednesday, March 17, and Thursday March 18, 2021. There is no additional risk to individuals who attended the bar on any other day. The facility remains open and is working with Public Health to ensure all patrons' and staff's safety.

Public Health is the leader in all outbreaks and case management. Determining who is at risk is a decision that Public Health can only make. Public Health makes all contact tracing and determination of individual and community risk. This is true of all cases,

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whether in schools, workplaces or the community. A health care provider or employer cannot make this decision.

If you have questions, please call the health unit at 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456

- For questions about testing, please contact the COVID Infoline at x3000.
- For questions about restaurant practices, please contact the Public Health Inspector Information Line at x3402.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

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



Media Release

March 20, 2021

COVID-19 Outbreak – Grey Bruce Health Services

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with the Grey Bruce Health Services to address cases of COVID-19 associated with four patients in the hospital. **This outbreak is reflected on the [Public Health website](#).**

The outbreak is contained to one floor. Public Health measures are in place to mitigate the risk of transmission, including lockdown and visitor restrictions. There is no additional risk to the public.

Public Health is the lead in all outbreaks and case management. Public Health 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.

Those who tested positive have been contacted directly by our COVID-19 Case and Contact Management Team. We are working with the cases and the hospital to identify others, both in and out of the work environment, who may have been exposed and to determine their risk level.

Determining who is a close contact is a decision that can only be made by Public Health. A Public Health case manager will contact anyone identified as a contact to the confirmed cases, both in and outside of the hospital environment. Those at risk of infection will be contacted within 24 hours of the investigation.

Anyone NOT contacted by Public Health is not considered at risk and need not take any additional steps including asymptomatic testing.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit will direct staff and patients in the hospital to test as required. Those considered at risk outside of the work environment, will be directed to testing within their local assessment centre, or other feasible location on the appropriate and recommended date(s).

There is no value in anyone being tested ahead of being notified and instructed to do so by Public Health as results would be unreliable and would put individuals at risk of more testing than is required.

All contact tracing and determination of individual and community risk is made by Public Health. This is true of all cases, whether in hospital, workplaces or the community. A health care provider or workplace official cannot make this decision.

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For More Information:

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Media Release

March 22, 2021

On-line and Phone Booking for COVID-19 Vaccine

Reports from individuals unable to use the provincial vaccine booking system are now resolved. The Grey Bruce Health Unit has received confirmation from the province that the on-line and toll-free phone lines are now operational.

All ten public clinics scheduled for this week are now in the system and available for booking.

Reports from clients earlier today identified the system did not reflect the current vaccine clinic schedule in Grey Bruce. As a result, some individuals were unable to book local appointments.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit worked with the province to address these issues.

Please note appointments are required to receive vaccine. If you do not have an appointment do not attend a vaccine clinic, you will not receive a vaccine.

Do not call public health or your healthcare provider for an appointment, even if directed to by the provincial booking operator. Once technical issues have been resolved, appointments can be made on-line at <https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine> or through the provincial toll free number 1-888-999-6488.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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

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Media Release

March 23, 2021

On-line and Phone Booking for COVID-19 Vaccine

The Grey Bruce Health Unit has received confirmation from the province that the on-line and toll-free phone lines for booking COVID-19 vaccines are now operational.

All public clinics available for booking this week are now visible in the system.

Earlier reports from clients identified some individuals were unable to book local appointments.

We received confirmation from the province that is now resolved.

Please note appointments are required to receive vaccine. If you do not have an appointment do not attend a vaccine clinic, you will not receive a vaccine.

Do not call public health or your healthcare provider for an appointment, even if directed to by the provincial booking operator. Appointments can be made on-line at <https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine> or through the provincial toll free number 1-888-999-6488. If you can't book right away, keep trying, clinics are being added regularly.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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Media Release

March 23, 2021

Third Wave is Possible – One Last Push

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is reminding individuals that the third wave of COVID-19 is likely. We cannot afford to let up on efforts to prevent a resurgence of COVID-19 as we move toward the vaccine's widespread distribution.

Despite being in a favourable position with active cases, new cases, and case numbers, we cannot afford to be complacent. As we near the end, doubling-down on our efforts will continue to help ensure that the residents of Grey Bruce remain as safe as possible as we await widespread distribution of the vaccine.

We call on the public to put forward as much effort as possible to prevent this third wave. The initial message that kept us in a favourable position remains relevant – **Watch your Distance, Wear a Mask, Wash Your Hands.**

General advice

Even if there is no longer a stay-at-home order in your area, staying home is still the best way to protect yourself and others. You are strongly advised to:

- stay home as much as possible
- avoid social gatherings
- limit close contacts to your household
- work from home if possible, and allow your employees to work from home if they can
- avoid travel except for essential reasons

Follow public health advice:

- stay home if you have [symptoms](#), even if they are mild
- wash your hands thoroughly and regularly
- cover your cough
- download the [COVID Alert mobile app](#)
- get tested if you have symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or if you've been advised of exposure by your local public health unit or through the COVID Alert mobile app

Close contact, [face coverings](#), [gatherings and events](#)

- Limit close contact to your household (the people you live with).

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519-376-9420

1-800-263-3456

Fax 519-376-0605

- Individuals who live alone, including seniors, may consider having exclusive, close contact with another household to help reduce the negative impacts of social isolation.
- Maintain two metres of physical distancing from everyone else.
- Wear a face covering or mask:
 - indoors, any time you are within two metres of someone outside your household
 - if physical distancing cannot be maintained
 - if wearing one is required
 - It is also recommended you wear a face covering outdoors whenever face-to-face with someone outside of your household, especially if you are within two metres.
 - when meeting for permitted organized public events or social gatherings with individuals outside of your household.
- Follow provincial and local restrictions on public and private gatherings.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

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



Media Release

March 24, 2021

Public Assistance Request Cat Bite

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is seeking assistance from the public in finding the owner of a cat involved in a biting incident that occurred in the town of Meaford. On March 23, 2021, at approximately 7:30 p.m., a woman was bitten by an adult male Siamese cat with a dark red collar. The victim was trying to pet the well-groomed cat which has been seen frequently in the area of the Georgian Trail and William Croft Athletic Field.

Staff of the Grey Bruce Health Unit need to confirm the cat is not infectious with rabies. By verifying the health of the cat, the victim can avoid receiving the post-exposure rabies treatment. If you have any information related to this incident, please contact the Grey Bruce Health Unit at 519-376-9420 ext. 1355.

For more information:

Robert Reid

Grey Bruce Health Unit

519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 1355

r.reid@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

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Media Release

March 25, 2021

UPDATE - COVID-19 Exposure Associated with Bar in Owen Sound

The Pub Owen Sound March 17 & 18, 2021

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is investigating two COVID-19 cases associated with The Pub at 1005 2nd Ave East in Owen Sound, Ontario. There is evidence of transmission of COVID-19 that took place among individuals within the bar on the evenings of Wednesday, March 17, and Thursday March 18, 2021.

Public Health emphasizes the urgency for anyone who visited The Pub on the evenings of Wednesday, March 17 and Thursday, March 18, 2021, to seek testing at the nearest COVID-19 assessment centre.

While Public Health has directly contacted the individuals identified as close contacts, there remains unknown patrons who visited the bar on these dates. Anyone who attended the bar on the evenings of Wednesday, March 17, and Thursday, March 18, 2021, is asked to seek testing at the nearest COVID-19 assessment centre. Additionally, anyone who attended the bar on the evenings of Wednesday, March 17, and Thursday March 18, 2021, and is experiencing symptoms is asked to call Public Health at 1-800-263-3456 ext. 3000.

Individuals tested in connection with this investigation are not required to isolate but should limit their activities to essential outings until they have received a negative result.

The patrons' risk is limited to those who visited the premise on the evenings of Wednesday, March 17, and Thursday March 18, 2021. There is no additional risk to individuals who attended the bar on any other day. The facility remains open and is working with Public Health to ensure all patrons' and staff's safety.

Public Health is the leader in all outbreaks and case management. Determining who is at risk is a decision that Public Health can only make. Public Health makes all contact tracing and determination of individual and community risk. This is true of all cases, whether in schools, workplaces or the community. A health care provider or employer cannot make this decision.

If you have questions, please call the health unit at 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456

- For questions about testing, please contact the COVID Infoline at x3000.

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- For questions about restaurant practices, please contact the Public Health Inspector Information Line at x3402.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

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



Media Release

March 26, 2021

Another Surge of COVID-19 is Imminent – One Last Push – Update

There has been an increase in COVID-19 cases over the past week in Grey Bruce, specifically related to public settings. We have seen cases related to personal care settings, as well as involving exercise related group activities and outbreaks in healthcare settings, and restaurants/pubs.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is reminding individuals that the third wave of COVID-19 is likely. We cannot afford to let up on efforts to prevent a resurgence of COVID-19 as we move toward widespread vaccine distribution.

As we near the end, doubling-down on our efforts will continue to help ensure that the residents of Grey Bruce remain as safe as possible. We call of workplace settings to also double down on their efforts.

We call on the public to put forward as much effort as possible to prevent this third wave. The initial message that kept us in a favourable position remains relevant – **Watch your Distance, Wear a Mask, Wash Your Hands.**

[General advice](#)

Even if there is no longer a stay-at-home order in your area, staying home is still the best way to protect yourself and others. You are strongly advised to:

- stay home as much as possible
- avoid social gatherings
- limit close contacts to your household
- work from home if possible, and allow your employees to work from home if they can
- avoid travel except for essential reasons

Follow public health advice:

- stay home if you have [symptoms](#), even if they are mild
- wash your hands thoroughly and regularly
- cover your cough
- download the [COVID Alert mobile app](#)

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- get tested if you have symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or if you've been advised of exposure by your local public health unit or through the COVID Alert mobile app

Close contact, [face coverings](#), [gatherings and events](#)

- Limit close contact to your household (the people you live with).
- Individuals who live alone, including seniors, may consider having exclusive, close contact with another household to help reduce the negative impacts of social isolation.
- Maintain two metres of physical distancing from everyone else.
- Wear a face covering or mask:
 - indoors, any time you are within two metres of someone outside your household
 - if physical distancing cannot be maintained
 - if wearing one is required
 - It is also recommended you wear a face covering outdoors whenever face-to-face with someone outside of your household, especially if you are within two metres.
 - when meeting for permitted organized public events or social gatherings with individuals outside of your household.
- Follow provincial and local restrictions on public and private gatherings.

For Workplaces

Follow all safety and preventive measure for your patrons and staff. See the links below for detailed information.

- [COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) and workplace health and safety | Ontario.ca](#)
- [COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) and your employment standards protections | Ontario.ca](#)
- [Resources to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace | Ontario.ca](#)
- [Workplaces and Businesses \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](#)

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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



Media Release

March 27, 2021

COVID-19 Associated with School

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with Harvest Canadian Reformed School to address probable cases of COVID-19 associated with the school in the municipality of Georgian Bluffs

Currently there are no outbreaks (i.e. evidence of transmission from person to person) in any schools or childcare centres in Grey Bruce. No bus routes of any schools are involved with this case.

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

Determining who has had close contact is a decision that can only be made by Public Health. Anyone at heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission due to close contact to a person with COVID-19 will be contacted by Public Health within 24 hours of the investigation.

Those NOT contacted by Public Health need not take any additional steps including asymptomatic testing.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit will direct those considered at risk regarding testing requirements and recommendations (e.g., timing). There is no value in anyone being tested before they are notified and instructed to do so by Public Health. Results of early testing are unreliable and place individuals at risk of more testing than is required.

In this situation, the individuals with probable COVID-19 have been contacted directly by our COVID-19 Case and Contact Management Team. Working with the clients and the school, we have identified any others, both in and out of the school environment, who may have been exposed to determine their level of risk.

All contact tracing and determination of individual and community risk is made by Public Health. This is true of all cases, whether in schools, workplaces or the community. A health care provider or school official cannot make this decision.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

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Kelly Lush

From: Dr. Arra, Ian (MOH) <I.Arra@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca>
Sent: March-27-21 4:16 PM
To: Dr. Arra, Ian (MOH)
Cc: Drew Ferguson
Subject: Situation Report #375: COVID-19 March 27, 2021

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Situation Report #375 COVID-19

Grey Bruce Health Unit | Incident Management
System

March 27, 2021

Current Situation: Grey Bruce is in the Green- Prevent Zone in the Ontario COVID-19 response framework.

Follow the 3 W's – Wash hands frequently, Watch distance (ideally 6ft), and Wear face covering correctly, and the 2 A's - Avoid Crowds and Arrange for outdoor activities instead of indoors whenever possible.

The Situation Report data aligns with the provincial Case and Contact Management (CCM) systems. [Click here](#) for details.

Testing and case counts reported as of 23:59 hrs, March 26, 2021:

- 7 new case(s) reported in past 24 hours in Grey Bruce: 3 – Grey Highlands, 2 – Arran-Elderslie, 2 – Owen Sound
- 796 confirmed cases
 - Includes 31 cases of Variants of Concern (VOC), 14 active
 - One case referred from another health unit – The Blue Mountains
 - Includes 5 cases related to hospital outbreak – hospitalized prior to the outbreak, not hospitalized due to COVID-19 symptoms
- 55 active case(s)
- **275 active high-risk contacts**
- 737 resolved cases
- 3 confirmed case(s) hospitalized in Grey and Bruce due to COVID-19
 - 2 Grey-Bruce residents hospitalized outside of Grey and Bruce
- 4 deaths
- 83 cases reported in health care workers; reports health care workers living in Grey Bruce and working both in and outside Grey Bruce

Vaccine - [Website](#) - [The Grey Bruce Health Unit COVID-19 Vaccination Program Plan](#)

- 23048 doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in Grey and Bruce
 - [Vaccine Progress March 29 \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](#)
- Vaccine Shipment Week of March 22: **5850 doses**

- Please note the 5850 doses of vaccine received may yield additional doses. Additional doses may be drawn from vials of certain vaccine products (e.g. 10 dose vial yielding 11 doses for Moderna). e.g. a shipment of 100 vials can yield any number between 1000 doses and 1100 doses.
- We exhaust all doses we receive before the arrival of the next shipment with the exception of a small percentage to ensure sufficient supply of vaccine for clinics scheduled at the beginning of the following week. Shipments are not guaranteed to arrive on the same day each week.

Future Vaccination Planning:

Vaccine rollout: [Weekly Vaccine Schedule - March 29](#)

- For week of March 29, vaccinations will focus on: clients 75+, First Nation Communities and First Nation Clients not living in First Nation Communities, Long-Term Care Home staff, residents and essential caregivers (2nd dose). Stage 2 anticipated to begin booking on April 1. Further updates to be provided as details on process emerge. Stage 2 Priority included here: [Vaccine 3 Phase Plan \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](#)
- Notes:
 - Those turning 75 this year or older, born 1946 or earlier, can make appointments through the provincial on-line booking system for COVID-19 vaccinations at <https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine>. Those without access to the internet can call the toll-free number 1-888-999-6488.
 - Clients without a Health Care Provider, or whose Health Care Provider is outside Grey Bruce, should call the toll-free number 1-888-999-6488.
 - **For more information, please view the following:** [Implementation of Provincial Booking System Across Public Health Units | Ontario Newsroom](#)
 - **For detailed Frequently asked questions – visit:** [Book Vaccine Appointment \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](#)
 - **Appointments are not available by calling your healthcare provider. Appointments are not available by calling the Health Unit.**
 - **No one will be left out.**

Active Outbreaks:

- 1 Facility(ies) in COVID-19 outbreak. Reported in [Hospitals](#)
- 0 Facility(ies) in COVID-19 outbreak. Reported in [Long-Term Care/Retirement Homes](#)
- 0 Facility(ies) in COVID-19 outbreak. Reported in [Schools](#)
- 0 Facility(ies) in COVID-19 outbreak. Reported in [Childcare Centres](#)

Actions Taken In the Past 24 Hours:

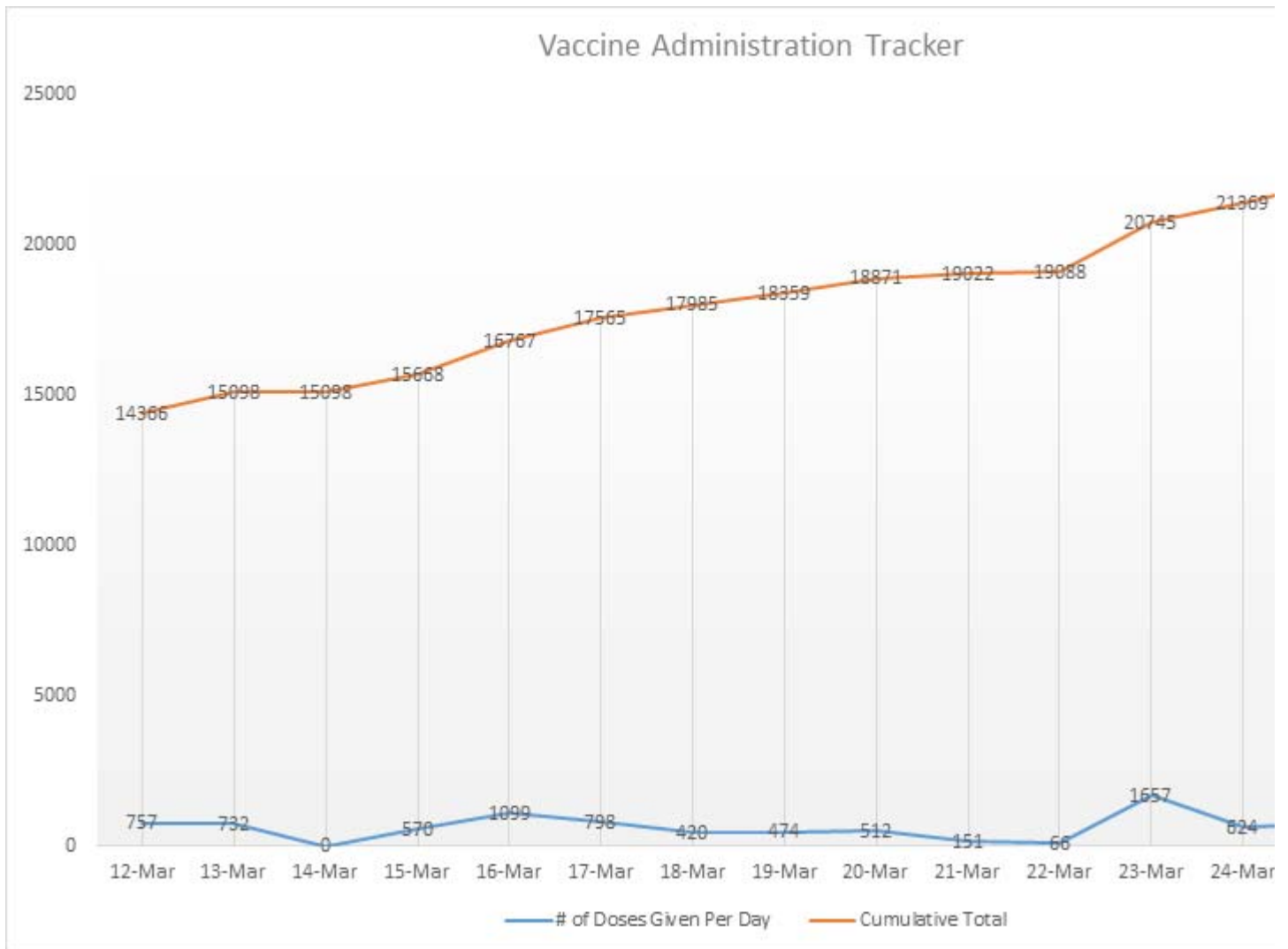
- Media Release - [Another Surge of COVID-19 is Imminent – One Last Push – Update](#)
- Media Release - [COVID-19 Associated with School](#)
- Media Release - [COVID-19 Associated with School](#)
- Public Health has been actively engaged to support schools with ongoing updates and consultation meetings with local Boards and officials from all schools in Grey and Bruce
- GBHU COVID-19 Team continue with case and contact management, reporting, and responding to COVID-19 related calls. Contact tracing exceeds provincial targets with 100% of all cases contacted within 24 hours
- GBHU Team continue to ensure essential public health activities not related to COVID-19

Provincial COVID-19 Data - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/data>

- [Provincial Testing Data](#)
- [Provincial Hospitalization Data](#)
- [Provincial Likely Source of Infection Data](#)
- [Raw Data to Download - Provincial](#)

Media Relations

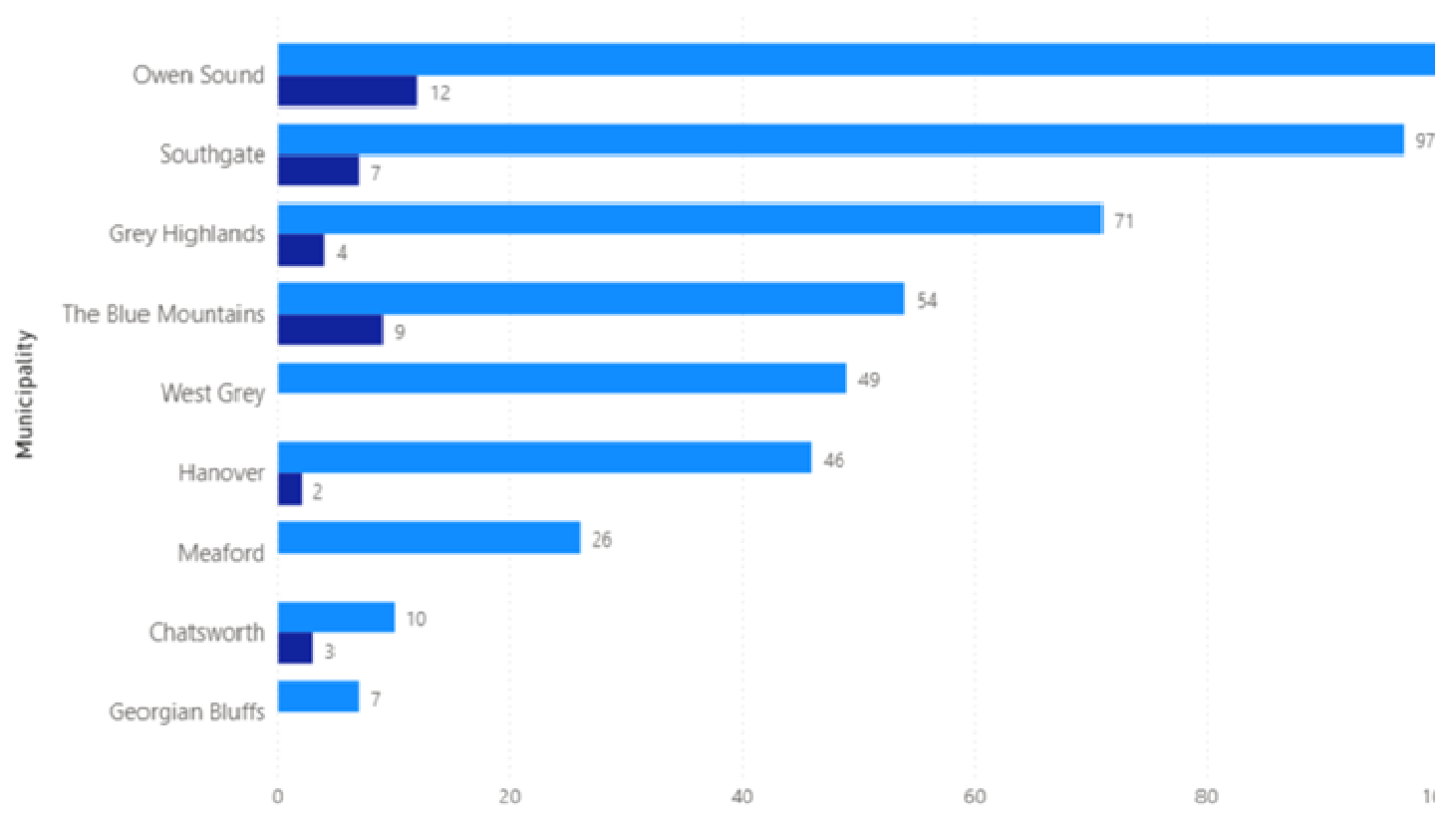
Please connect with Media Coordinator, Drew Ferguson, at D.Ferguson@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 1269



Resolved and Active Cases by Municipality

Grey County

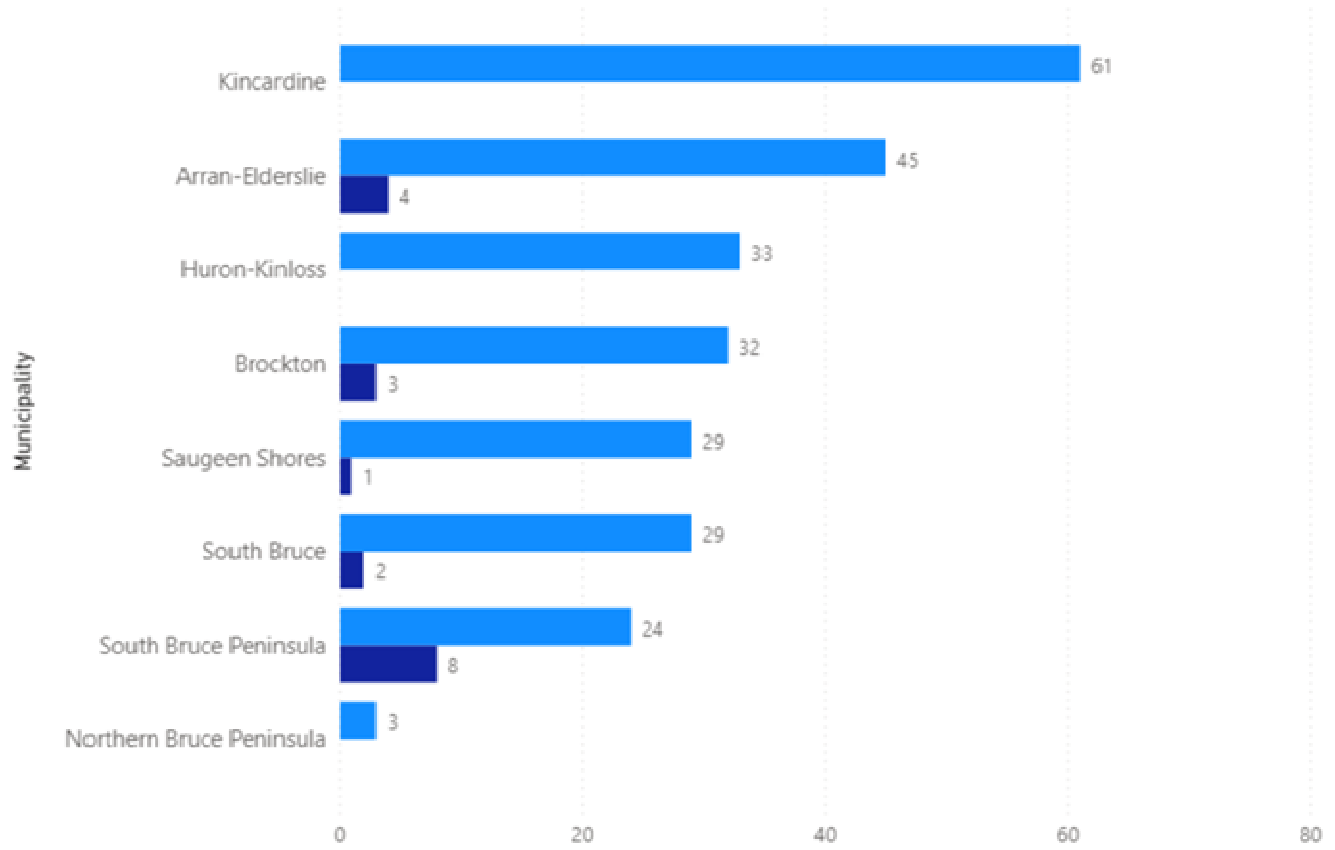
● Resolved ● Active



Resolved and Active Cases by Municipality

Bruce County

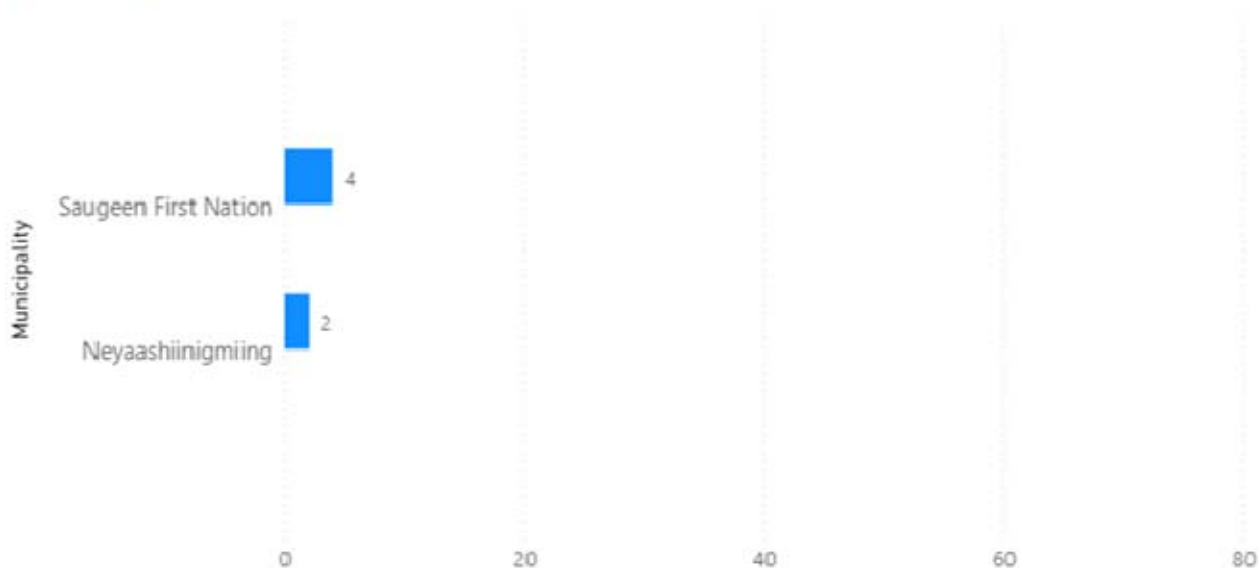
● Resolved ● Active



Resolved and Active Cases by Municipality

First Nation Communities

● Resolved ● Active



Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
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Vision: A healthier future for all.

Mission: Working with Grey Bruce communities to protect and promote health.

Core Values: Effective communication, Partnership, Respectful Relationships, Quality and Innovation, Integrity, Leadership

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Media Release

March 28, 2021

COVID-19 Associated with School – Update

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board and associated bus company to address a probable case of COVID-19, associated with St. Anthony's School in Kincardine, ON.

While there is an individual with probable COVID-19 associated with this school, our assessment, to date, indicates that transmission did not take place within the school environment. Currently there are no outbreaks (i.e. evidence of transmission from person to person) in any schools or childcare centres in Grey Bruce. A single bus route is involved with this case.

In this situation, the individual with probable COVID-19 has been contacted directly by our COVID-19 Case and Contact Management Team. We have worked with the individual and the school, along with the school board and bus company and have identified all others, both in and out of the school environment, who may have been exposed and have determined their risk level. Any cohorts and bus contacts that have been identified as contacts to the case have been or are in the process of being excluded from school at this time.

Those NOT contacted by Public Health need not take any additional steps including asymptomatic testing.

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

Determining who has had close contact is a decision that can only be made by Public Health. Anyone at heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission due to close contact to a person with COVID-19 will be contacted by Public Health within 24 hours of the investigation.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit will direct those considered at risk regarding testing requirements and recommendations (e.g., timing). There is no value in anyone being tested before they are notified and instructed to do so by Public Health. Results of early testing are unreliable and place individuals at risk of more testing than is required.

As a reminder to the public, if you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please proceed to your nearest assessment centre for testing.

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Media Release

March 28, 2021

COVID-19 Associated with School – Update

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with Bluewater School Board to address a probable case of COVID-19, associated with Kincardine District Secondary School in Kincardine, ON.

While there is an individual with probable COVID-19 associated with this school, our assessment, to date, indicates that transmission did not take place within the school environment. Currently there are no outbreaks (i.e. evidence of transmission from person to person) in any schools or childcare centres in Grey Bruce. No bus routes of any schools are involved with this case.

In this situation, the individual with COVID-19 has been contacted directly by our COVID-19 Case and Contact Management Team. We have worked with the individual and the school, along with the school board and have identified all others, both in and out of the school environment, who may have been exposed and have determined their risk level. Any cohorts that have been identified as contacts to the case have been excluded from school at this time.

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As a reminder to the public, if you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please proceed to your nearest assessment centre for testing.

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Media Release

March 30, 2021

COVID-19 Associated with Ripley-Huron Community School

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with Bluewater School Board to address a probable case of COVID-19, associated with Ripley-Huron Community School in Ripley, ON.

While there is an individual with COVID-19 associated with this school, our assessment, to date, indicates that transmission did not take place within the school environment. Currently there are no outbreaks (i.e. evidence of transmission from person to person) in any schools or childcare centres in Grey Bruce. No bus routes of any schools are involved with this case.

In this situation, the individual with COVID-19 has been contacted directly by our COVID-19 Case and Contact Management Team. We have worked with the individual and the school, along with the school board and have identified all others, both in and out of the school environment, who may have been exposed and have determined their risk level. Any cohorts that have been identified as contacts to the case have been excluded from school at this time.

Those NOT contacted by Public Health need not take any additional steps including asymptomatic testing.

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

Determining who has had close contact is a decision that can only be made by Public Health. Anyone at heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission due to close contact to a person with COVID-19 will be contacted by Public Health within 24 hours of the investigation.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit will direct those considered at risk regarding testing requirements and recommendations (e.g., timing). There is no value in anyone being tested before they are notified and instructed to do so by Public Health. Results of early testing are unreliable and place individuals at risk of more testing than is required.

As a reminder to the public, if you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please proceed to your nearest assessment centre for testing.

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For More Information:

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Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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Media Release

March 30, 2021

COVID-19 Associated with St. Anthony's School – Update

An earlier reported probable case of COVID-19 in St. Anthony's School in Kincardine is now confirmed and a second probable case has now been identified. The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board and the school bus company to address both case of COVID-19, confirmed and probable, associated with the school.

While there is an individual with confirmed and another with probable COVID-19 associated with this school, our assessment, to date, indicates that transmission did not take place within the school environment. The Grey Bruce Health Unit is confident any interactions between these individuals that may have lead to transmission occurred outside the school environment. Currently there are no outbreaks (i.e. evidence of transmission from person to person) in any schools or childcare centres in Grey Bruce. A single bus route is involved with this case.

The individuals identified with both the confirmed and probable COVID-19 have been contacted directly by our COVID-19 Case and Contact Management Team. We have worked with the individuals and the school, along with the school board and bus company and have identified all others, both in and out of the school environment, who may have been exposed and have determined their risk level. Any cohorts and bus contacts that have been identified as contacts to the case have been or are in the process of being excluded from school at this time.

Those NOT contacted by Public Health need not take any additional steps including asymptomatic testing.

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

Determining who has had close contact is a decision that can only be made by Public Health. Anyone at heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission due to close contact to a person with COVID-19 will be contacted by Public Health within 24 hours of the investigation.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit will direct those considered at risk regarding testing requirements and recommendations (e.g., timing). There is no value in anyone being tested before they are notified and instructed to do so by Public Health. Results of early testing are unreliable and place individuals at risk of more testing than is required.

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As a reminder to the public, if you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please proceed to your nearest assessment centre for testing.

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For More Information:

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Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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



Media Release

March 30, 2021

COVID-19 Associated with Ripley-Huron Community School

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with Bluewater School Board to address a confirmed case of COVID-19, associated with Ripley-Huron Community School in Ripley, ON.

While there is an individual with COVID-19 associated with this school, our assessment, to date, indicates that transmission did not take place within the school environment. Currently there are no outbreaks (i.e. evidence of transmission from person to person) in any schools or childcare centres in Grey Bruce. No bus routes of any schools are involved with this case.

In this situation, the individual with COVID-19 has been contacted directly by our COVID-19 Case and Contact Management Team. We have worked with the individual and the school, along with the school board and have identified all others, both in and out of the school environment, who may have been exposed and have determined their risk level. Any cohorts that have been identified as contacts to the case have been excluded from school at this time.

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Determining who has had close contact is a decision that can only be made by Public Health. Anyone at heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission due to close contact to a person with COVID-19 will be contacted by Public Health within 24 hours of the investigation.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit will direct those considered at risk regarding testing requirements and recommendations (e.g., timing). There is no value in anyone being tested before they are notified and instructed to do so by Public Health. Results of early testing are unreliable and place individuals at risk of more testing than is required.

As a reminder to the public, if you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please proceed to your nearest assessment centre for testing.

A healthier future for all.

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All contact tracing and determination of individual and community risk is made by Public Health. This is true of all cases, whether in schools, workplaces or the community. A health care provider or school official cannot make this decision.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

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