



Media Release

April 13, 2021

COVID-19 Associated with Georgian Bay Community School

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with Bluewater District School Board to address five confirmed cases and one probable case of COVID-19, associated with Georgian Bay Community School in Meaford. There is evidence transmission was the result of social gatherings among the high school aged youth and not related to in-school activities. Additional testing may identify other individuals also associated with this cluster.

No bus routes are involved with this case.

The individuals with COVID-19 has 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 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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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

April 13, 2021

COVID-19 Confirmed Outbreak at Queen of Hearts Nursery School

The suspect outbreak of COVID-19 previously identified (April 12, 2021) associated with the Queen of Hearts Nursery School in Owen Sound is now a confirmed outbreak. Three confirmed cases and a number of probable cases are identified with this outbreak.

An outbreak is declared when there is evidence of transmission from one person to another person within the childcare setting.

Staff and management of the nursery school are going above and beyond in collaboration with public health to ensure the safety of the children, families, staff and the community.

The individuals with COVID-19 have been contacted directly by our COVID-19 Case and Contact Management Team. We have worked with the individuals and the nursery school 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.

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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 nursery schools, 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

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Letter to the Editor

April 13, 2021

Patience is a Virtue, Harassment is an Atrocity

Dear Community,

March 2007, Detroit was hosting Wrestlemania. As a young man, I have to admit, yes, I was a wrestling fan. There was nothing that I wanted more than to go to this event; a dream since I was a little kid! Midnight on the eve of tickets going on sale, I sat at my computer, just hoping to be able to grab a few tickets before they sold out (something we are all too familiar with). As soon as I could, I started clicking furiously to get tickets. Error code after error code, I could tell that the system was overwhelmed. I was definitely not the only one trying to get these tickets. I thought, I was different, I needed them, I was a true fan; I must be special – right?

Two hours of clicking through error messages, I was finally able to get a screen to load. However, my dream of floor seats vanished, then my dreams of good seats vanished, and finally, my dream of having 2 seats together anywhere in the building vanished. I was no longer able to book tickets; I had missed my opportunity – the system failed!

On reflection, I know now, the system did not fail, the system worked, as it should, it was the demand that was out of proportion. So many people wanted tickets that it could only accommodate so many requests at a time. Anger slowly faded to planning my house party for the event. I got served up some lemons, and I made one heck of a glass of lemonade!

When the COVID-19 vaccines were first announced in Grey and Bruce, I remember the excitement, and the anticipation for the end of this Pandemic. The planning, and progress, and the collaboration was something tremendous to see. Chapmans donated freezers, Bruce Power helped with many logistical aspects of the Hub Model, and the public was rallying in anticipation to end this Pandemic.

It was at this point that we got served up some lemons. Over 150,000 people wanted their vaccine, and wanted it now. The Province developed phases for vaccine distribution, in order to distribute the vaccine gradually, based on a thorough ethical and scientific model. Unfortunately, many did not accept this model, and many did not agree that they must wait for the vaccine. When the booking system went live, people not yet qualifying for the vaccine began calling to complain; holding up the phone lines to those that truly qualified. People with issues in the provincial booking system began

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calling – to complain. Professionals, essential workers, not yet eligible for the vaccine wrote and called to complain – holding things up even more for those that truly qualified.

Complaining is one thing, however, I have to manage, on a daily basis, multiple incidents with my staff in which they are sworn at, belittled, harassed and bullied to the point of tears. Having lived through more than a year of this pandemic, I can tell you one thing, the staff here are tired (like everyone else!). The staff have lost hours, days, weeks, and probably month's worth of time. Time lost with their family, friends and more. Birthdays, celebrations with kids, Christmas, and other holidays lost. Just like the rest of the population, what we have had to ensure during this time has been unparalleled. Add in the fact that we are leading the response to this pandemic (with tremendous support from community partners and the public in general), and yet still also have kids in schools, spouses that have lost businesses, sick parents, and personal lives that we must attend to after working many hours of overtime each week – from frontline to managers.

This type of language and behaviour directed at our staff is completely unacceptable. Things have gotten to the point that I now have to spend time, away from responding and working on this pandemic, to defending and standing up for my staff. This is something I would do any day of the week, but it is also something that I wish I would never have to think of doing. I wish my full effort could be on my portfolio, but here we are, dealing with bullying, harassment, and cruelty. I also have to remind myself regularly, what it is like to be frustrated, and I do, each time I manage these situations, remind myself – the folks calling using this language are just frustrated, extremely frustrated, and their emotions get the best of them at times. Most, if not all, are unaware of their tone, and language that they are using – but we all need to become aware, we all need to be cordial with each other.

Saying this, I do realize that the majority of our interactions with the public are quite positive and friendly, focusing on problem solving and navigation through this pandemic, however, it still disheartens me to the fact that these abusive calls are growing exponentially with the impatience of getting the vaccine.

Do not get me wrong, we all are fully aware that – THIS IS OUR JOB. However, this is a 100-year event, and it is not something that is simply brushed off as “another day in the office”. As all of the population know, this has been a very hard year! We are all human, we are all part of the community in some way, and we all care. To hear the calls come in in such vile and cruel ways is a hard one to swallow, and one that I will defend at all costs. We need to be in this together, to support each other, to lift each other up when we are down. Kindness, support and patience will get us through this last push.

Let us rally together. Let us end the hate, and turn it in to kind problem solving, finding solutions together, and helping each other. Let us respect the Phases of vaccination and wait patiently for our turn. A stampede never exits the building, but tramples. An orderly process will get things done in a structured and time efficient manner, where nobody will get trampled or left behind.

One thing that makes me smile however is realizing the amount of people that this dedicated team at the Health Unit have saved. The fact that they are all working so tirelessly to ensure core functions are maintained, while still responding to a Pandemic is something that warms my heart, something that clearly tells me, we will move on and be stronger than ever after this Pandemic. Believe me when I say, we want this to end, we want to get back to our “normal”, and we are working as hard as we can to make this happen – we just need the help of all.

Everyone that wants the vaccine will get the vaccine – it will just take time. Once we get a large supply of the vaccine, this issue will be a non-issue, but until that time, please, let us be kind and patient, and you will all get the vaccine that you want.

I want everyone to know, COVID-19 may come and go, but our actions during this difficult time will stay with us forever. I strongly urge:

- **You** to think about your actions and words when you talk to others when frustrated – frustration is not permission to be mean and cruel.
- **Parents** to talk openly with your children about the importance of kindness and understanding. Reach out to offer your support to other parents.
- **Teachers** to talk about this with their students and be watchful for bullying in the classroom or playground. When you see, stop it.
- **Community leaders** to speak out on the importance of acceptance, empathy, and kindness
- **Everyone**; stop bullying when you see it

We are in this together, and we must all lean on each other. Now is not the time to get angry and bully each other. Now is the time to carry each other through tough times, knowing that we may need assistance, encouragement and support at some point in the future. Let us collectively fight this pandemic as a united community. The only way to do this is by understanding, and being sympathetic to each other's situation.

We have done fantastic so far during COVID-19, but these stories are becoming too common.

Thank you for listening, and please, be kind to one another.

Ian Reich, Interim Director of Operations and Program Development

For More Information:

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Media Release

April 14, 2021

COVID-19 Critical Threshold

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is declaring a critical threshold of COVID-19 cases in Grey Bruce. If we do not implement drastic measures at this juncture, the pandemic will spiral out of control.

We have identified over 70 new confirmed cases across Grey Bruce in the last thirty-six hours with the potential to generate hundreds of additional close contacts. The sources of transmission are identified as individuals not following lockdown with people visiting others when symptomatic as well as social gatherings and 'bush parties' by high school aged youth. The issue is worsened by individuals being untruthful to public health contact tracing and case management inquiries.

As the result of the increasing case numbers, our contact tracing and case management capacity is being stretched to its limit. Public health will redeploy staff from other programs, including the vaccine program and helpline, in order to support contact tracing and case management.

The large vaccine clinic planned for Saturday will not be held. The vaccine clinics for the remainder of this week will continue, but consideration is being given to closing next week's clinics in order to minimize the risk of people gathering as well as allowing public health staff to be redeployed. This will also result in the Infoline being shut down. The answers to most inquiries are on our website [COVID-19 information](#). We urge those with questions to review our website.

It may take us 2-3 days to reach everyone who is a case and complete managing their contacts.

We are asking the public to help. Everyone across Grey Bruce needs to consider themselves a carrier for the next 48 hours until we reach all case and their contacts. It is a priority that everyone stay at home except for essential travel. If contacted by public health, be prudent in following any direction that is given. This is in addition to the Provincial Stay-At-Home Order.

A class action Order from the Medical Officer of Health will be issued to further reinforce the need for cases and close contacts to follow public health direction.

Individuals who are symptomatic are asked to attend assessment clinics.

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Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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Media Release

April 15, 2021

Grey Bruce COVID-19 Critical Threshold – Health Unit Resources Redeployed

In response to declaring a critical threshold of COVID-19 cases in Grey Bruce, the Grey Bruce Health Unit has redeployed staff and resources to address this critical juncture.

All staff, with appropriate training that are available, are working on contact tracing and case management. Ensuring case management is the lynchpin to limit any further spread from current cases. An updated case management process has been introduced based on the experience of jurisdictions that have seen large-scale contact tracing numbers.

A Class Order from the Medical Officer of Health will ensure cases and at-risk contacts comply with any direction provided by public health case managers.

Large-scale vaccine clinics are being deferred to next week. Those vaccines are directed to residents in shelters and congregate settings where the risk of transmission would be higher with the current surge. Dedicated mobile teams, made up of health unit staff, EMS and volunteers, will attend 31 settings, up for 11 previously scheduled, to administer vaccine.

The phone lines for core programs of public health remain open and functioning. The Grey Bruce Health Unit Helpline is shut down with that staff re-deployed. Please visit our website as the answers to most inquiries are on our website [COVID-19 information](#). We strongly ask the public to refrain from calling the health unit, for the next 48 to 72 hours, unless matters are of an urgent nature. If you have a health care emergency, call 911.

We are asking the public to help. To be most conservative, everyone across Grey Bruce needs to consider themselves a carrier for the next 48 hours until we reach all case and their contacts. If contacted by public health, be prudent in following any direction that is given. This is in addition to the Provincial Stay-At-Home Order.

Consistent with the Provincial [Stay At Home Order](#), individuals should only go out for necessities, such as:

- the grocery store or pharmacy
- health care services (including going to medical appointments or getting vaccinated)

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- outdoor exercise or walking pets in your community
- work that cannot be done remotely
- child care or similar activities

Businesses must ensure all COVID-19 precautions are in place and followed.

Do not travel outside your region or the province unless absolutely necessary.

[Read the full list of reasons you can go out in the regulation \(PDF\).](#)

Individuals who are symptomatic are asked to attend assessment clinics.

For More Information:

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Media Release

April 15, 2021

COVID-19 Community Outbreak in Eastern Grey County

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is declaring a community outbreak in Eastern Grey County. The cases have been identified as a Variant of Concern.

This is a significant event requiring a Grey Bruce wide response as at-risk contacts are from across Grey, Bruce, and Simcoe Counties. Everyone across Grey Bruce is required to observe stay-home orders.

A class action order from the Medical Officer of Health, to those identified as cases or at-risk contacts, reinforces the need to follow direction from public health case managers.

There are 21 confirmed cases, plus a significant number of probable cases and high-risk contacts related to this outbreak. This outbreak is widespread but is centered in the communities of Thornbury, Clarksburgh and Meaford and spills into neighbouring Simcoe County.

The sources of transmission are identified as individuals not following provincial emergency brake orders by visiting others when symptomatic as well as large social gatherings and 'bush parties'. The issue is worsened by individuals being untruthful to public health contact tracing and case management inquiries.

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.

For More Information:

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Media Release

April 15, 2021

COVID-19 Suspect Outbreak Hanover Heights Community School

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with Bluewater District School Board and the bus company to address a suspect outbreak of COVID-19 associated with Hanover Heights Community School, Hanover. Two positive cases are associated with this suspect outbreak.

A suspect outbreak identifies interim evidence of transmission from person to person. Status will be determined pending additional testing. A single bus route is involved with this suspect outbreak.

The individuals with 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 that have been identified as contacts to the cases 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.

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For More Information:

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Media Release

April 16, 2021

Medical Officer of Health Issues Class Order

The Grey Bruce Health Unit Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Ian Arra, has issued a [Class Order, April 16, 2021](#), requiring specific compliance with respect to COVID-19 from the following individuals.

- a) Identified as a person diagnosed with COVID-19;
- b) Have the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting the results of their test;
- c) Otherwise have reasonable grounds to believe they have one or more symptoms of COVID-19;
- d) Are a close contact of a person diagnosed with COVID-19; or
- e) Directed to self-isolate by an employee of the Grey Bruce Health Unit.

These individuals are ordered to go to their residence and stay there, as is required, and further follow all direction from public health related to their status, as identified above. This includes:

- Self-isolate, as required
- Isolate separate to other household residents and avoid shared use of common areas
- Wear a mask when complete isolation is not possible
- Do not leave your place of residence for any reason save and except to seek medical care or to avoid threat to life or serious bodily injury to yourself or another.
- Inform Public Health if you have any specific needs while you are subject to isolation, including but not limited to food, water, supplies, accommodation, medical treatment, clothing, pet care, etc.
- Do not associate with any persons outside of your household with the exception of those delivering services or from whom care is sought.
- If required to associate with persons outside your household, as above, wear a mask or face covering over the mouth, lips, nose and chin and to keep a physical barrier or distance of at least two (2) metres between yourself and all other persons at all times;
- Follow the rules and directions of the Public Health Case Manager while isolating, whether they are written or verbal.

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This Order remains in effect until rescinded.

For More Information:

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Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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Media Release

April 17, 2021

All Grey Bruce Scheduled Vaccine Clinics Continue to Operate Despite the COVID-19 Critical Threshold

In response to declaring a critical threshold of COVID-19 cases in Grey Bruce, the Grey Bruce Health Unit has redeployed staff and resources to address this critical juncture.

All currently scheduled vaccine clinics are still proceeding. A contingency plan was designed to reallocate more vaccines to high-risk congregate settings such as shelters to protect these vulnerable groups.

One large-scale vaccine clinic (planned but not booked by clients) was deferred to next week. Those vaccines have been redirected to residents in shelters and congregate settings where the risk of transmission is higher during the current local surge of COVID-19 cases. Dedicated mobile teams are providing the vaccine to 42 of these settings by April 20.

All of the vaccines delivered to the Grey Bruce Health Unit are administered in the same week that they are received, with the exception of a small carry over quantity used for any clinics scheduled early in the following week.

To date, 46285 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered, with 8051 doses administered in the past 7 days. That is, 69% of people over the age of 70 and 30% of the eligible population have received their first dose of the vaccine. For details on vaccine progress, information on booking, and much more please visit our website at: [COVID-19 Vaccines \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca).

To book your appointment, please visit our main webpage at: [Grey Bruce Health Unit \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

All staff, with appropriate training that are available, are working on contact tracing and case management. Ensuring case management is the lynchpin to limit any further spread associated with current cases. An updated case management process has been introduced based on the experience of jurisdictions that have seen large-scale contact tracing numbers.

Case and contact management is progressing as planned. With the current trajectory, we should be able to regain full control over case and contact management by the end of today, April 17.

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We thank the public and community partners for their continued trust and support to the Grey Bruce Health Unit as the leading agency in managing the COVID-19 emergency in Grey Bruce.

For More Information:

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Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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Media Release

April 17, 2021

Grey Bruce COVID-19 From Challenge to Opportunity – Grey Bruce Strong

Over the past 3 days, the Grey Bruce Health Unit efforts to redeploy staff and revise case management strategies has effectively increased our capacity to manage the current case and contact volumes. This success would not have been possible without:

- The Case and Contact management team and leadership at the Health Unit
- Social Media and Communication Team at the Health Unit
- The media for continuing to support the messages
- The municipalities and businesses for modeling the way
- Local political leaders municipal and MPPs, and
- Most importantly the public for staying at home and following public health guidance

The redistribution of staff also precipitated the need to activate our vaccination contingency plan. A single large clinic (over 1,000 doses) that was planned (but no appointments booked) for Saturday April 17th was deferred. These doses of vaccines were redistributed to Congregate Settings (Shelters and community living) in Grey and Bruce. Dedicated mobile teams are providing the vaccine to 42 of these settings by April 20; this is an increase from the originally planned 11 clinics.

This vaccination success would not have been possible without the tremendous collaborations with:

- EMS;
- Municipal volunteers;
- Community volunteers;
- Health system volunteers;
- Leadership of Health Unit staff, in particular;
 - vaccine and volunteer leads and managers,
 - Contingency Planning Teams - planning for different vaccine delivery models.
- The Grey Bruce Vaccine Task Force
- Primary Care and hospital partners being willing and ready to help

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- The provincial support

It is through working together, collaboratively, and professionally that we can combat this 3rd wave of COVID-19. By working together, we can also ensure all that need the vaccine will get the vaccine as per the vaccine timelines.

A sincere thank you to everyone that has provided even the smallest amount of support in this challenging time – you have helped.

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

Kelly Lush

From: Dr. Arra, Ian (MOH) <I.Arra@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 7:31 AM
To: Dr. Arra, Ian (MOH)
Cc: Drew Ferguson
Subject: Grey Bruce Public Health COVID-19 Resources and Information: April 14 2021

[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.



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 **do not wish to receive** these communication updates from Grey Bruce Public Health, please email: a.gaviller@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca*

April 14, 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 as well as details of vaccine administration in Grey and Bruce. An online and telephone booking system is now available and is available to those in the current priority group based on the [provincial framework](#). There are two separate booking options; one for people over the age of 60, and another for those who fit in the eligible criteria for phase 2. The Health Unit Website hosts a link to these booking systems here: [Grey Bruce Health Unit \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](#). There is also a robust FAQ document in this web location. For a detailed understanding on who is eligible, please visit [Other Currently Eligible Groups \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](#)

1. [Eligible Age Groups](#) - updated eligibility list
2. [COVID-19 Associated with Beaver Valley Community School Apr 6](#) – media release
3. [Grey Bruce Priority Population Booking System Now Live and Vaccine for 60+ Apr 7](#) – media release
4. [COVID-19 Vaccine Progress - End of Phase One Apr 8](#) – media release
5. [Grey Bruce Sets Record for Canada's Largest Ever COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Apr 8](#) – media release
6. [COVID-19 Associated with Notre Dame Catholic School, Owen Sound Apr 12](#) – media release
7. [COVID-19 Suspect Outbreak Beaver Valley Community School Apr 12](#) – media release
8. [COVID-19 Associated with Immaculate Conception School, Formosa Apr 12](#) – media release
9. [COVID-19 Associated with St Mary's High School, Owen Sound Apr 12](#) – media release

10. [COVID-19 Associated with Hanover Heights Community School, Hanover Apr 12](#) – media release
11. [COVID-19 Outbreak at Notre Dame Catholic School, Owen Sound Apr 12](#) – media release
12. [COVID-19 Suspect Outbreak at Queen of Hearts Nursery School, Owen Sound Apr 12](#) – media release
13. [COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout - Week of April 12](#) – media release
14. [COVID-19 Associated with Georgian Bay Community School Apr 13](#) – media release
15. [Find a Clinic \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](#) – clinic map updates
16. [Public Health Measures Shutdown April](#) - new
17. [Vaccine Progress April 12](#) - update
18. [Weekly Vaccine Schedule - April 12](#) - update
19. [Considerations for Celebrations](#) - updated
20. [Considerations for Short Term Rentals](#) – updated
21. [GBHU COVID-19 Guidance for Food Premises](#) - updated
22. [Information for Faith and Religious Organizations](#) – updated
23. [Guidance for Community Food Programs](#) - updated
24. [COVID-19 and Considerations for Travel](#) – updated
25. [COVID-19 and Bullying Info sheet](#) - updated

Please see updated [Book Vaccine Appointment \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](#) webpage.

Please visit [Schools \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](#) for updated chart of COVID-19 associated with schools

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

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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

April 21, 2021

COVID-19 Suspect Outbreak at Jardin des Découvertes daycare in Owen Sound

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with **Jardin des Découvertes** daycare to address a suspect outbreak of COVID-19 associated with the daycare, located in Owen Sound.

A suspect outbreak identifies interim evidence of transmission from person to person. Status will be determined pending additional testing.

The individuals with COVID-19 have been contacted directly by our COVID-19 Case and Contact Management Team. We have worked with the individuals and the daycare and have identified all others, both in and out of the daycare 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 daycare 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.

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

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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

April 22, 2021

Grey Bruce COVID-19 Critical Threshold Overcome

The community responded to Grey Bruce's top doctor's critical threshold alarm and maintained complete control over the pandemic locally. That community-wide response to support the Grey Bruce Health Unit at the cusp of a critical threshold in COVID-19 cases was vital in containing any further surge in Grey Bruce.

Acknowledging the severe nature of the situation, the community responding by embracing public health's direction to stay-at-home. Many organizations and businesses went further by voluntarily shutting their doors for the critical 48-hour period.

Over the past five days, the Grey Bruce Health Unit's efforts to redeploy staff and revise case management strategies effectively increased our capacity to manage the current case and contact volumes. This success would not have been possible without:

- The Case and Contact management team and leadership at the Health Unit
- Social Media and Communication Team at the Health Unit
- The media for continuing to support the messages
- The municipalities and businesses for modelling the way
- Local municipal leaders and MPPs, and
- Most importantly, the public for staying at home and following public health guidance.

The redeployment of health unit staff to case management assisted in limiting any additional potential transmission. Contact tracing and case management identified and directed at-risk individuals to isolate and get tested, as required. Once in isolation, the risk of transmission is significantly reduced. A Class Order from the Medical Officer of Health helped ensure cases and at-risk contacts would comply with any direction provided by public health case managers.

A lingering number of cases from the earlier outbreak may still emerge due to the incubation period of the virus. All these cases are identified and under health unit case and contact management. As such, the risk to the community is mitigated.

The redistribution of staff also triggered the need to activate our vaccination contingency plan. A planned single large clinic of over 1,000 doses, but no appointments booked, for Saturday, April 17, was deferred. These doses of vaccines were redistributed to congregate settings (shelters and community living) across Grey and Bruce. Dedicated mobile teams provided the vaccine to 42 sites by April 20.

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The Grey Bruce Health Unit Helpline will re-open shortly. We remind everyone to visit our website first, as the answers to most inquiries can be found on our website [COVID-19 information](#). We ask the public to be respectful so we could serve you best.

Core programs of public health remained open and functioning, on a limited basis, the entire time.

"Public health did what we had to do. The community did what they had to do. And together, we were able to contain this potentially dangerous surge in COVID-19 cases." says Grey Bruce's Top Doctor, Dr. Ian Arra. "It is crucial for all of us to stay the course with the 3Ws, wash your hands, watch your distance and wear a mask over the coming weeks until the vaccine rollout is complete this summer."

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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Grey-Bruce Vaccine Distribution Task Force Community Letter

Being at Our Best, Showing Unity Critical for Grey-Bruce Communities

This week, the Grey-Bruce Vaccine Distribution Task Force met for an update from Dr. Ian Arra and the health unit team on two pressing issues – the spread of COVID-19 and the progress on vaccine distribution. The Task Force is a team of public institutions, community partners, health providers, businesses, Indigenous communities, agricultural sector, and people committed to supporting the implementation of vaccinations in Grey-Bruce.

We are at a critical juncture in the pandemic. Stress, COVID-fatigue, and the many challenges people are faced with as a result of the pandemic are real. Small businesses are suffering, and people are out of work. Our public office holders at all levels are trying their best and our health system is stretched. Times are tough and we need to recognize this.

That's why we are sending this message, endorsed by the Grey-Bruce Vaccine Distribution Task Force. Being at our best and showing unity is how we will end the pandemic. There is a clear plan regarding the distribution of vaccines in Grey-Bruce – it's open and transparent. While there is lots of social media commentary, there are a number of key items we need to all reflect on in a unified manner as a community.

First, supplies are rapidly picking up and to date we have given nearly 50,000 doses of vaccine in Grey-Bruce and they are administered within days of being received. Within months, every resident in Grey-Bruce that's in the prioritization sequence will be able to be vaccinated based on the Provincial Government's ethical framework that works to best allocate vaccines based on the highest risk. To date, a third of adults in Ontario have received their first dose.

Public Health will allocate these vaccines based on these guidelines to meet the needs of Grey-Bruce. We need to show our support and confidence in Public Health to make the right decisions. Public Health only has one goal – protect people and end the pandemic.

Our local primary care and pharmacies are also playing a critical and important role. Based on Provincial arrangements they are safely and effectively administering the AstraZeneca vaccine to anyone over 40. Each participating pharmacy and clinic will have their own waiting list and process for booking vaccinations. Again, demand has outpaced supply locally and all of these providers will do more as supplies arrive.

We can be frustrated that there are many in our community who have not been able to be vaccinated but also recognize there is more demand than supply and officials are doing the best they can given the unprecedented circumstance. These organizations managing the rollout are often faced with changing circumstances given the challenges variants have presented and are making the best decisions they can. We believe being at our best and showing unity is critical at this time. Let's offer forgiveness to one another and demonstrate love, peace, and patience towards one another as we work towards a common goal of a better, healthier tomorrow. It's what Grey-Bruce has done throughout the pandemic, always does in tough times and will do in the days ahead.

Being at our best is also about doing whatever we can to stop the spread of COVID-19, so we have the time for vaccine to arrive and everyone to be vaccinated. We know what these are – distancing, mask wearing and following the rules in place. By focusing on this, we are giving our Health Care system a chance to fight more challenging variants and save people who contract the virus. These steps are also

imperative to ensuring the health unit team can continue to effectively and efficiently complete contact tracing to break the chains of transmission.

Showing unity is a recognition that we have more demand than supply for the vaccine and we will be patient and respectful of the organizations and people that are trying their best to cover everyone as quickly as possible. This is easier said than done given the fatigue and very real consequences from the pandemic, but this is how we will be successful.

This pandemic will end, and the task force is committed to working as hard as we can with Public Health and our institutions to advocate, support and enable as needed until everyone in Grey-Bruce who wants a vaccine can get one. Together we will beat this by being at our best and showing unity.

Craig Ambrose

Chief of Police
Owen Sound Police Service

Dr. Ian Arra

Medical Officer of Health and CEO
Grey Bruce Health Unit

David Baker

Lead Pastor
South Port Church

Doug Barfoot

Fire Chief
Owen Sound Fire

Dr. Lindsay Bowman

Family Physician
Brockton and Area Family Health Team

Ashley Chapman

Vice President
Chapman's

Lori Di Castri

Chair of the Board
Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board

Sheryl Elliott

Superintendent of Education
Blewater District School Board

Ryan Fullerton

Pharmacist & Owner
Brown's Guardian Pharmacy & Stewart's Pharmachoice

Steve Hammell

Mayor, Municipality of Arran-Elderslie & Agricultural Representative

Selwyn (Buck) Hicks

Warden
Grey County

Dana Howes

President and CEO
Hanover & District Hospital

Janice Jackson

Warden
Bruce County

Pamela Loughlean

Executive Director
Peninsula Family Health Team

Krista Miller

Inspector
South Bruce O.P.P.

Penny Pedlar

Director of Clinical Services & Nurse Practitioner
South East Grey Community Health Centre

Doran Ritchie

Councillor & Chair of Health Committee
Saugeen First Nation

Nick Saunders

Councillor & Fire Chief
Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation

Steve Schaus

Director of Paramedic Services
Bruce County EMS

James Scongack

Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Operational Services
Bruce Power

Dr. Lizette van Zyl

Lead Physician
Owen Sound Family Health Team

Kristen Watt

Pharmacist & Owner
Kristen's Pharmacy



Media Release

April 26, 2021

Grey Bruce Health Unit's COVID-19 Help Line Re-Activated

Having successfully contained the recent surge in cases of COVID-19 locally, the Grey Bruce Health Unit is re-activating our telephone Helpline, 519-376-9420 ext. 3000

To prevent further transmission and support the large case volume staff were re-assign from the Helpline to assist contact tracing and case management during the recent surge.

The Helpline provides general guidance related to COVID-19. It is not a vaccine booking system or capable of managing booking system challenges. Most questions to the Helpline are answered on our website. As such, basic vaccine or COVID-19 questions in which the answer is easily available on our website or application will be referred to our website. We will respond to those without capacity to review the website.

As a reminder when calling the Helpline, please ensure you speak respectfully to the staff, avoiding rude, vulgar or cruel language, as it will not be tolerated.

For information about the vaccine rollout, to review eligibility, and to understand how to book an appointment, please visit our Vaccine Webpage, or download our mobile app at: [COVID-19 Vaccines \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/covid-19-vaccines)

- Google
 - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ca.on.publichealthgreybruce.app>
- IOS
 - <https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/grey-bruce-covid19-vaccine-app/id1560299564>

For information on eligibility and booking through the provincial system, please visit:

[About the Provincial Booking System \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/about-the-provincial-booking-system)

Please note the provincial booking system can book first and second appointments.

For information on eligibility and booking through the local Grey Bruce Health Unit booking system, please visit:

[Local Booking System for Other Eligible Groups \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/local-booking-system-for-other-eligible-groups)

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At this time, the local booking system only books first appointments. The majority of clients that book using this system must book their second appointment when it is due – 16 weeks after the first dose (with some exceptions for a small portion of the population)

To book over the phone with the local booking system, please call the Grey Bruce vaccine line at:

- 1-833-421-1999; Monday to Friday: 8 am - 7 pm; Saturday 9 am to 1 pm; Closed Sunday. (Grey Bruce Community Connections).

The Grey Bruce Health Unit wants to thank everyone for their patience during this time.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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