



Owen Sound Family Health Organization
1415 First Ave West, Suite 2000
Owen Sound, ON N4K 4K8



June 1, 2021

Dr. David Williams.
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health (pending)

Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force

Re: Primary Care Eager and Ready to Help

Dear Dr. Williams, Dr. Moore and Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force members

The Owen Sound Family Health Organization and the Grey Bruce Health Unit jointly request the Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force increase the role of primary care in the front-line of COVID-19 immunization through an increase in the provision of vaccine to this sector.

The Owen Sound Family Health Organization (OSFHO) provides primary care to about 25% of the population of Grey Bruce. In addition to front-line care, the OSFHO health care providers counsel the vaccine hesitant; review concerns with regard to underlying illness, identify those at higher risk of Covid, and have a relationship of trust with our patients. The OSFHO is eager and ready to help our community overcome the biggest public health crisis of our lifetime.

Our goal is to expand the existing use of physicians and staff who are already providing vaccines to some of our most vulnerable community members. Primary Care staff are trained in managing the provincial vaccine tracking system and can offer web or telephone bookings through offices with which our patients already have familiarity. Staff are ready and trained regarding infection prevention and control.

It is important that public health and primary care work collaboratively to overcome this crisis. Primary care physicians and staff are eager and ready to take on a larger role in the vaccination of our patients, and strongly encourage increased access to vaccine supplies to this sector so as to further utilize our services and skills. Together, we can help see our community through these difficult times.

Respectfully

Dr. Gurdeep Singh, MD
Chairman of the Board
Owen Sound Medical Associates Inc.

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM
Medical Officer of Health and CEO
Grey Bruce Health Unit

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Media Release

June 22, 2021

Chapman's Support to COVID-19 Vaccinations in Grey Bruce

The Grey Bruce Health Unit thanks Chapman's Ice Cream for their strong corporate support to the COVID-19 community vaccine initiatives in Grey and Bruce.

Demonstrating their commitment to the local community and economy Chapman's was at the forefront of the COVID pandemic; immediately asking how they can help.

Ashley Chapman, VP of Chapman's Ice Cream is a respected voice as a member of the Grey Bruce Vaccine Task Force.

Chapman's expertise in freezer technology led the way to the early acquisition of ultra-low temperature cryogenic freezers to store vaccine for the Grey Bruce clinics. They also assisted by sharing their expertise in the specialized safety and handling associated with these super-freezers. Chapman's also assisted in the provision of a specialty cryogenic freezer for Windsor-Essex Public Health.

Chapman's supported the early acquisition and distribution of PPE (personal protective equipment) as it was required across Grey Bruce.

Chapman's assisted in the set-up of the Hockey Hub mass immunization clinics as well as supported local workplace clinics for their workers.

Chapman's has supported the daily immunization clinics by providing water and other break refreshments to volunteers and staff at the clinics; something that is much appreciated by those working in the clinics.

"It has been a privilege working with Dr. Arra, the Health Unit, and the Vaccine Task Force. We have always been a community driven company, and will happily contribute anything we can going forward." said Ashley Chapman, VP of Chapman's Ice Cream. "Thankfully, due to the leadership of Dr. Arra, our community has avoided the worst of the pandemic which has greatly benefited our employees. That said, our hearts go out to all who have been effected, or experienced the loss of a loved one during these times."

"Grey Bruce has been well served by the support we've received to the COVID vaccination effort from Chapman's," says Grey Bruce Medical Officer of Health, Dr Ian

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Arra. "Grey Bruce benefits from this leadership by example in a community-wide effort to halt the spread of the virus and limit the harm from it. We thank them for their involvement."

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

June 23, 2021

Hanover COVID-19 Outbreak Declared Over

Today the Grey Bruce Health Unit is announcing the end of a COVID-19 outbreak identified in a rooming facility in Hanover. The outbreak was first declared on June 3, 2021, and the facility had been closed since then with residents and high-risk contacts required to self-isolate.

All residents have been advised of the outbreak ending.

Ongoing supports, through a variety of partners that were provided to the residents, will continue to be made available, as appropriate, and will be reviewed regularly to ensure essential services are maintained. We thank those organizations for the collaborative effort in providing services throughout this outbreak and ongoing.

For More Information:

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Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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Media Release

June 28, 2021

Grey Bruce COVID-19 Situational Update

Grey Bruce is witnessing a slowing down in the rate of new cases connected with the recent surge of COVID-19 cases locally. The origins and the majority of cases associated with this surge can be traced to specific sectors of the community. The Delta variants appears to be driving the surge. Similar additional surges may be possible based on the experience of Delta in other locations where it is already widespread. COVID-19 remains a serious threat to unvaccinated adults, especially those middle-aged or older.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is taking a multi-pronged approach to addressing this surge.

Public Health recognizes the majority of cases are situationally complex related to disadvantaged groups within our society, including housing challenged and people with substance use issues. As such, ensuring cases observe isolation and other protocols related to limiting transmission remain a difficulty with this population.

Public Health has scaled up our capacity in Case and Contact Management Team. We can confirm there is no backlog in case management. Public Health continues to work with partners to increase isolation compliance and to adhere to public health measures within this sector. This includes providing settings that individuals can use to safely isolate or contain positive cases in cohorts.

There is a strong relationship between caseloads and vaccination rates. It is evident cases rose more rapidly in communities with lower vaccination rates. The Delta variant is significantly more contagious than earlier variants.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit has requested massive shipments of vaccine from the province over the coming weeks. The goal is to have everyone in Grey Bruce with either their first or second vaccination by the end of July. These incoming vaccine supplies would be directed to larger numbers of daily mass immunization clinics being held in the three Hockey Hubs across Grey Bruce.

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Public Health is also working with partners, including EMS, hospitals, physicians, and pharmacies, to provide targeted vaccine clinics to be held in locations appropriate to sectors of the community that are at greater risk due to housing and substance-use challenges.

The vaccines are effective against Delta, nearly eliminating any chances of serious illness.

It is clear vaccination is how the pandemic ends. The appearance of Delta variant makes vaccination even more valuable as the variant is raising the human cost associated with reluctance to get vaccinated. We continue to advise the public to get the first and second doses of vaccine, when eligible, as soon as possible.

We ask the public to remain vigilant in observing protocols to prevent transmission. Always observe the 3Ws;

Wear a mask,

Watch your social distancing,

Wash your hands.

For More Information:

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Media Release

June 26, 2021

Grey Bruce COVID-19 Situational Update

Over the past four days, Grey Bruce has witnessed a sustained increase in the number of cases locally. This increase has seen daily case numbers jump to an average of 25 new cases per day. This is a significant increase from approximately 5 cases per day in prior weeks. The majority of these cases are complex and are related to disadvantaged groups within our society, including transient individuals, people who are homeless and/or using drugs.

The Delta variants appears to be driving the surge. Evidence of the Delta variant has been established in numerous lab confirmed cases and is further supported clinically by the short incubation period, high transmissibility, multiple cases and clusters of cases.

In order to stem this surge, Public Health has scaled up our staff capacity in Case and Contact Management Team. However, ensuring cases observe isolation remains a challenge with this population. Public Health will continue to work with partners on increasing isolation compliance and adhering to public health measures within this sector.

Second doses of COVID-19 vaccine have now been offered to all residents living in shelters in Grey Bruce. Mobile units, with ongoing support from EMS, will be offering the vaccine to individuals living in unregistered shelters/rooming homes this week.

Strategically, we have placed large orders on vaccine shipments for each week of July. We plan to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine to greater proportion of our eligible population as soon as possible. We continue to advise the public to get the first and second doses of vaccine, when eligible, as soon as possible.

We ask the public to remain vigilant in observing protocols to prevent transmission. Always observe the 3Ws; **Wear** a mask, **Watch** your social distancing, **Wash** your hands.

For More Information:

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