

June 30, 2021

Celebrate Canada Day with a COVID-19 Vaccine

Make it a happy Canada Day with a COVID-19 vaccination!

A drive-through clinic will be held Thursday, July 1, Canada Day, at the Grey Bruce Health Unit, 101 17th St. E. Owen Sound, **by appointment only**. Appointments for the Health Unit drive-through clinic can be made through the <u>Local Booking System</u>. A limited number of appointments are available.

In order to book the following steps will need to be followed:

Local Booking System link.

- 1. Select "Community" as vaccine site
- 2. Select "Current eligible population" as target population
- 3. Select "Other Priority Population" as reason for immunization
- 4. Select "Other" for priority group you belong to
- 5. Select "Choose date"
- 6. Select July 1 it will then show the available appointment times (09:00 11:30).

In response to increased supplies of COVID-19 vaccine, the Grey Bruce is expanding existing clinics and adding new clinics. New pop-up clinics and last minute clinics will be added as resources permit.

The goal is to have everyone in Grey Bruce vaccinated by the end of July.

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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July 16, 2021

Modified Step 3 in Grey Bruce – Long-Term Care Homes

Acknowledging Grey Bruce continues to face a surge in COVID-19 Delta variant cases, the Grey Bruce Health Unit is directing all Long-Term Care Homes continue to operate with some measures from Step 2 guidance, with the purpose of increasing vaccine rates in staff and essential visitors. These measures will assist in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 Delta variant and help to ensure the safety of some of the most vulnerable people in Grey and Bruce.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit, in consultation with the Ministry of Long-Term Care, will move towards full implementation of the provincial Step 3 in a staggered approach in order to mitigate risk. The implementation of the amendments will be reviewed regularly based on a risk assessment and any changes will be communicated as early as possible.

Instructions have gone out to all Long-Term Care Homes detailing the specific measures to be undertaken. <u>Modified Step 3 Long-Term Care Home Memo July 16, 2021</u>. Key components are highlighted below.

At this time, surveillance testing will continue in all homes as per the practice under Step 2 guidance UNLESS the staff member/ Essential Care Giver / Visitor is fully immunized. Daily symptom screening of residents will change from twice daily to a minimum once daily. Of note, the updated definition of "fully immunized" now includes those receiving different COVID-19 vaccines for first and second doses.

Eye protection requirements will continue for all staff and essential visitors until homes achieve a full immunization rate.

Changes being implemented with modifications:

- Permitting all residents to go on day and overnight absences regardless of immunization status.
 - Restricted to those who are FULLY immunized at this time
- Returning to homes setting their own maximums for visitors based on operational capabilities with potential guidance on minimums.
 - o Must be able to maintain 2M distance, based on homes capacity
- Permitting buffet and family style dining.
 - o Family style dining permitted, but NOT buffet style.

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- Allowing activities such as karaoke, singing, and dancing.
 - Must be able to maintain 2M physical distance.

Changes **ON HOLD**, at this time:

- Resumption of off-site group excursions for residents.
- Removing requirements/rules contingent on homes' immunization coverage rates.

Ontario entered Step Three of the <u>Roadmap to Reopen</u> on July 16, 2021. Grey Bruce moved to a modified Step 3 on July 16, 2021 with strong recommendations for the public instead of regulatory orders to contain the spread of COVID-19 Delta variant.

See the media release from July 15, 2021 for more information: <u>Delta Variant Concern-Roadmap for Modified Step 3 in Grey Bruce - News Releases</u>
(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

Background:

Grey Bruce continues to see a significant number of people with COVID-19 with 99 per cent being the Delta variant. It is noteworthy that a large number of people who have COVID-19 are individuals that were not vaccinated or became infected as the result of gatherings where COVID-19 precautions were not followed.

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July 21, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine and Your Business

COVID-19 within a business or workplace can cause significant impacts including exclusion of staff and possibly closure to the public, resulting in loss of revenue, and potential short and long term loss of your client base.

Having all employees fully vaccinated against COVID-19 is the most successful way to prevent COVID-19 from impacting your workplace.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit strongly recommends that all workplaces develop a vaccine policy. This policy should **strongly encourage** all eligible employees to get two doses of the vaccine, and allow employees time off to get the vaccine. The Health Unit recommends any businesses wanting to implement a more rigorous policy of mandatory vaccinations in their employees should seek legal counsel.

It is noteworthy that from July 1-15, 95% of COVID-19 cases in Grey Bruce were in individuals that were NOT fully vaccinated. The vaccine decreases a person's chance of getting the virus, as well as decreasing their likelihood of hospitalization or death.

Currently, provincial Step 3, requires all places of business to adhere to public health measures and advice and to screen ALL employees prior to starting a shift at work. All places of business must also screen their patrons. For details, please visit:

- COVID-19 public health measures and advice | COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Ontario
- COVID-19 worker and employee screening (ontario.ca)
- COVID-19 customer screening (ontario.ca)

Businesses and employers with more than 20 employees wanting to be vaccinated can request a Pop-Up Clinic at the workplace. If you are interested in hosting a workplace Pop-Up Clinic, please email Contactus@Publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

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July 20, 2021

Charges Pending Related to COVID-19 Outbreaks from Local Parties

Party hosts and attendees who fail to follow either the <u>Provincial Regulations</u> and/or the local Section 22 <u>MOH Class Order</u> of April 16, 2021, currently in place from the Grey Bruce Medical Officer of Health, are liable for charges. The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working on pursuing charges against individuals who are identified as not in compliance and/or obstructing the public health investigation.

Two recent parties in the local area with high numbers in attendance resulted in outbreaks with significant additional cases, infecting the attendees as well as their families and close contacts.

Although many teens and young adults who attended these parties were forthcoming with information, some withheld information or provided incomplete information. This hindering of our investigators negatively affected our ability to reach high-risk individuals in a timely manner, potentially allowing for more spread of the virus.

Charges will be brought against those individuals that willfully obstruct a case and contact investigation, such by providing information known to be false or withholding information. Working through the case investigation process, it becomes evident as to the identity of those that have been withholding or providing false information.

Persons who willfully defy local directives and provincial regulations can face fines. For non-compliance with the Grey Bruce Health Unit's Case and Contact Management Team's direction and/or obstruction of our investigations, the fine, upon conviction, can be up to \$5000 a day. This fine can be levied retroactive to the day the initial non-disclosure occurred.

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July 21, 2021

Illness in the Home – Others Must Isolate as Well

Household members who are symptom-free, in a household with an individual who is symptomatic with COVID-19, must not attend work, school or childcare.

Those who are symptom-free should monitor themselves and get tested at the first sign of symptoms related to COVID-19.

Parents must not send children that are symptom-free to daycare, camp or youth activities when there is someone else in the household that has symptoms.

Please follow the <u>COVID-19 school and child care screening</u> guidance every day before sending a child to school or childcare.

Everyone who is eligible should be fully vaccinated as soon as possible.

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July 17, 2021

200,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses surpassed in Grey Bruce

As the Province enters <u>step 3 of reopening</u>, and Grey Bruce enters a <u>modified step 3</u> of reopening, the Grey Bruce Health Unit is happy to announce a major milestone in terms of vaccination success locally. We have surpassed giving over 200,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine locally (up from about 140,000 last week of June). The majority of COVID-19 infections and deaths are among unvaccinated people. Vaccine is the best way to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus, especially with the recent surge of the Delta Variant. Get your vaccine.

As of end of day, on July 15th, **202,213** total doses had been given locally. That translates in to:

- 74% of the eligible population with 1 dose of vaccine (up from 70% last week of June)
- 61% of the eligible population with 2 doses of the vaccine (up from 24% last week of June)

While this milestone is a success, we have a couple of weeks left to ramp down the mass immunization campaign in the large Hockey Hubs, and to start ramping up the targeted immunization campaign. At the end of July, all large vaccine Hubs will be disassembled to return to community functions. Please attend a Hub to get your second dose now. Please remember, if you have an appointment to a Hub clinic in August or September, they will be cancelled.

As mass vaccination is completed and the Hubs are closed, targeted immunization strategies, utilized for the past weeks, will be the focus of our efforts after August 1, 2021, including:

- Pop-up mobile clinics (e.g. at rooming homes, unregistered shelters, ...)
- Drive-through clinics (e.g. at gyms, hockey games, malls...)
- First Nations clinics (at both Nawash and Saugeen First Nations)
- Hospital delivery (through ER as well as inpatient)
- Workplace clinics

The traditional vaccine system will also continue to play a major role in increasing coverage and providing a long term vaccine rollout:

- Pharmacy (35 locations)

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- Primary Care clinics (12 locations)
- Health unit vaccine clinic, school vaccinations

We would like to remind everyone of a fabulous promotion to encourage you to get your vaccine as soon as possible. By getting your vaccine between now and the end of July, The Grey Bruce Health Unit and Bruce Power will send three lucky people to Cobble Beach Golf Resort for a round of golf with Doug Gilmour, NHL Hall of Famer and Toronto Maple Leafs legend.

All it takes to enter the draw is to volunteer or receive a first or second dose at vaccination centres in Kincardine (Davidson Centre), Owen Sound (Owen Sound District Secondary School), and Hanover (P&H Centre), or community pop-up clinics, from July 12-31. Entry details will be available upon sign-in at the vaccination centres.

Attached: Vaccine Delivery Models in Grey Bruce July 12 2021

Related News Release: Volunteer at Hockey Hub or get vaccinated for chance to golf with NHL Hall of Famer Doug Gilmour - News Releases (publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

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July 26, 2021

Public Assistance Request Dog Bite - Clarksburg

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is seeking assistance from the public in finding the owner of a dog involved in a biting incident that occurred in Clarksburg. On Sunday, July 18, at approximately 11:36am, a man was bitten by a black, large breed dog with skinny ears and a large tail. The dog breed resembled Rottweiler or a Doberman mix. Incident occurred on a section of Georgian Trail approximately 250 meters north of Grey County Road 40. A couple was walking a dog. Man was wearing glasses, dark baseball cap, black shirt and shorts. Woman was dressed in white.

Staff of the Grey Bruce Health Unit need to confirm the dog is not infectious with rabies. By verifying the health of the dog, 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. 1540.

For more information:

Roman Huk Grey Bruce Health Unit 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 1540 r.huk@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

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July 23, 2021

Let's Talk to Our Kids - COVID-19 Cases in Teens and Young Adults

The current active COVID-19 Delta cases in Grey Bruce is predominantly in the teen and young adult population. Of the 132 current active cases, 76 are 10 to 29 years, with the vast majority, 95 per cent, not fully vaccinated. This results in the ongoing spread of the virus to their friends and other family members, including vulnerable grandparents.

Parents are especially asked to remind their children to consider the devastating effect the virus can have should it spread to other family members, such as grandparents who are most vulnerable. Parents are strongly encouraged to have their teens and young adult children get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Young adults are strongly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine as the cases continue to occur in people who are unvaccinated.

We understand young people need to have fun activities especially after this long restrictions. We strongly encourage them to consider limiting the number of activities in which they take part per day. And to the best of their ability, to limit the number of friends and people they interact with. Interacting with 5 people per day is fine, but interacting with 20 people per day is too much. Self-limiting their participation can reduce the chances to spread the virus.

This means fewer parties, smaller gatherings and always following to 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.

Having everyone in the family who are eligible fully vaccinated against COVID-19 is the most successful way to prevent COVID-19. There are Drop-In Vaccine Clinics every day in Grey Bruce. **Vaccine Schedule**

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WE APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU DO!





We are incredibly grateful for all the safety precautions that you have taken to continue to treat patients in the safest way possible

We haven't forgotten about all you physicians, lab technicians, health inspectors and educators and other public health workers who continue to help keep us safe amid the pandemic



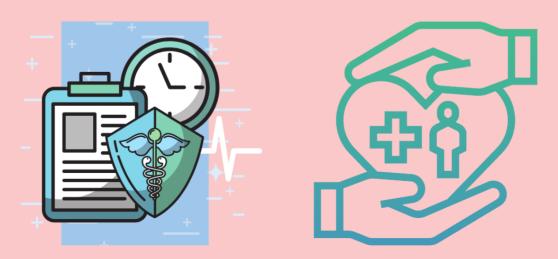


Thank you all! You risk your own safety every day to help us stay healthy! You are an exceptional group of essential workers who work tirelessly every day. You deserve to know how grateful we are to have you!

From: Sarina Sandhu

To: Public Health Workers

Thank you so much for all you have done for Canadians during these last few months. With your dedication to the health community, we have successfully flattened the curve in nearly all provinces and have managed to keep cases low. Putting your own health at risk in order to save others, along with working long and tiring hours, is very admirable and the entire Canadian population owes you for being there when all of us were in need. Not a day goes by without me thinking of all the stress you had to endure throughout this pandemic. So once again, thank you for always being there to keep us well and healthy.



From: Emily Cook



Public Health Workers



Who are they?

- Public Health Nurses
- Public Health Physicians
- Health Inspectors
- Health Educators
- Lab Technicians
- Epidemiologists
- Statisticians

Public Health Workers have worked tirelessly throughout this pandemic to keep us healthy, yet their work has been largely underrecognized by society in the media.

What do they do?

- Monitor and solve public health outbreaks
- Perform research to eradicate health hazards that affect the community
- Educate the public about health issues
- Aid in the development of plans and policies addressing public health concerns



Role in Covid-19

- Processing Covid Tests
- Produce statistics that model and track the progression of the pandemic
- Provide advice on population health

Take some time today to appreciate and thank our Public Health Workers for all their hard work. They deserve recognition and gratitude for their services.

To: Public Health Workers

Thank you for keeping us safe, I personally want you to know we all appreciate the sacrifice you make for us everyday, risking you life to help us. You choose to help the people in need, I can only wish to have half the courage you have.



From: Anokhi Patel

Dear Public Health Workers,

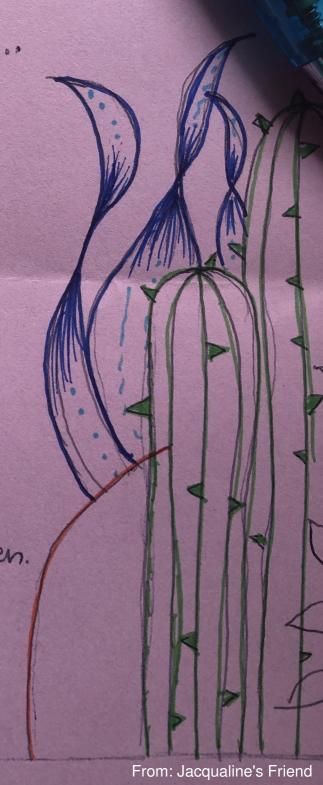
THANK YOU!

for keepingus safe and protected...
for choosing to some and care
for those affected...

for improving quality of life of anyme that walks in ...

for bringing Hope to what may seem like the worst day of our life.

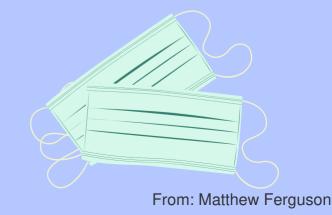
Love, grateful citizen.



To: Public Health Workers

Thank you so much for ensuring Torontonians and the general public had and continue to have access to data, information, and safety guidelines throughout this pandemic. Your work is the reason we know where we need to focus our efforts, when we can re-open, and how we can ensure the most vulnerable in society aren't left out of the picture as we work towards tackling an issue that affects some people way more than others. A massive thanks to all public health workers who have ensured a reasonable, practical, and safe response throughout this time!





To: Public Health Workers

Thank you for your amazing work! I know, and the nation knows how much effort you put in to make sure our community still runs smoothly even during these hard times. I really appreciate your work and I think you should get recognized on a global scale for it.



From: Ankita



KEEP CALM

AND

THANK

 THE

FRONTLINE WORKERS



Transportation Workers



Custodial & Sanitation Workers



Postal Service & Delivery Workers



Food & Agriculture Workers



Community Service & Social Workers



Retail & Manufacturing Workers



Teachers & Childcare Workers



Public Health Workers

From: Carol Ma



BEYOND THE WARDS

We salute all frontline workers!

Thank you for your service and sacrifice during this difficult time.

Each and every one of you play an important role in maintaining our society.









THANK YOU, **FRONTLINE WORKERS!** THANK YOU, **HEROES!**











Transportation Workers



Custodial & Sanitation Workers



Postal Service & Delivery **Workers**



Food & **Agriculture Workers**



Community Service & Social **Workers**



Retail & **Manufacturing Workers**



Teachers & Childcare Workers



Public Health Workers



Thank you for...

- -cashing out our groceries

- -getting us to places
 -delivering our mail
 -keeping the cities clean
 -maintaining supply of food
 -supplying essential products
 -supporting communities
 -teaching, learning, being you

As I walk down this path
On this street
I see many faces
Passing by me

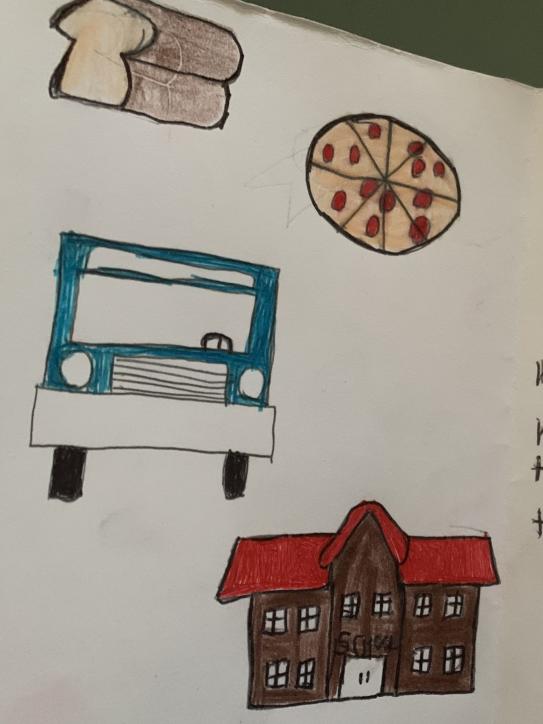


Underneath the masks are many stories
Many different skin colours and nationalities
Some wear uniforms, walking with ease
Walking with purpose and responsibility

Each person I pass by, has a different story A different life in these Canadian streets The role they play, their duty, is far from ordinary As they embark on this journey to protect people like you And me



We saw this sign on the street and instantly thought of you! Thank you for all that you do for us—you're a hero.

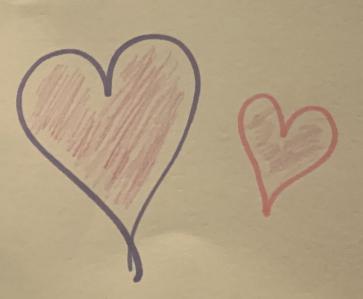


Thanks to our workers who our helping our city, They are keeping our city clean educating students, helping us get the food we need, helping us get to where we need to go and more Even though they are risking themselves they are helping



THANK

Thank you to everyone who is helping our community, even though you are putting your health at risk. Thank you for all your hard work, and all of your sacrifices, you are very kind and brave. You ARE MY HERO!



DEAR ESSENTIAL WORKERS, THANK YOU

FOR DRIVING
INNOVATION AND
IMPORVING OUR
LIVES!

F O R . . .

FOR BRINGING YOUR SKILLS, TALENT AND COMPASSION FOR BEING
THE
HEROES OF
OUR LIVES



PROVIDING
US HOPE IN
THIS
STRESSFUL
SITUATION



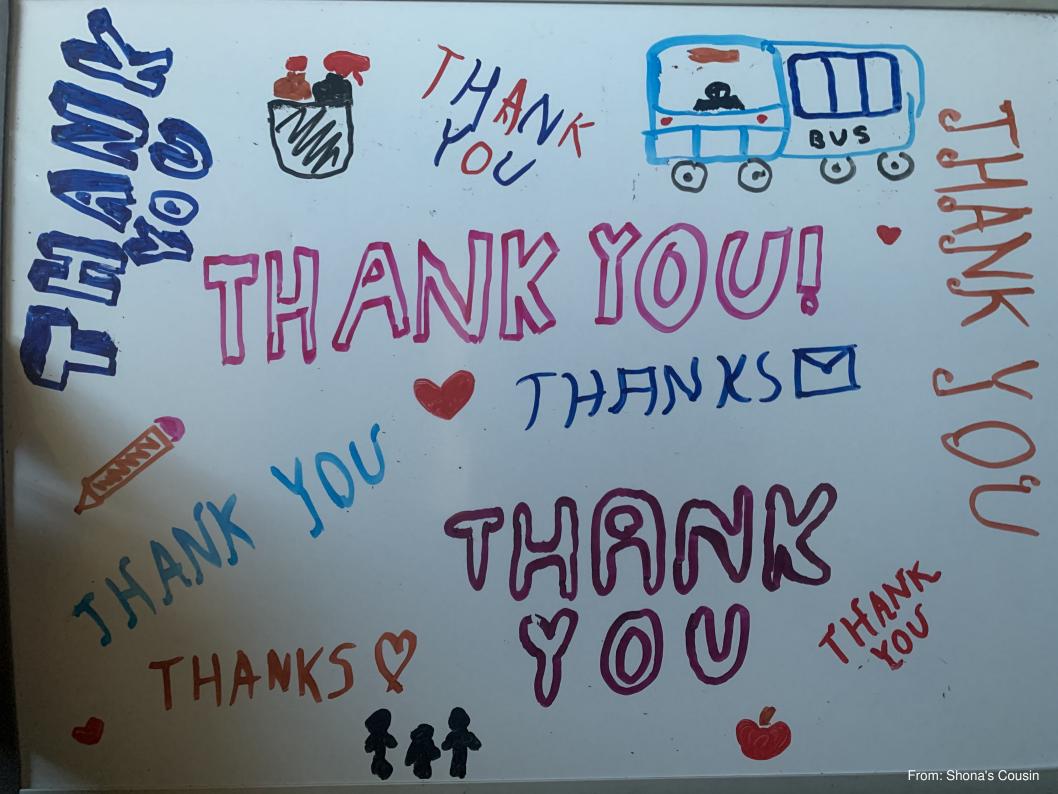


FOR KEEPING OUR
COMMUNITY
SAFE!

From: Jacqualine's Friend

FOR THE SELF-LESS NESS AND PRESERVERANCE EVERYDAY

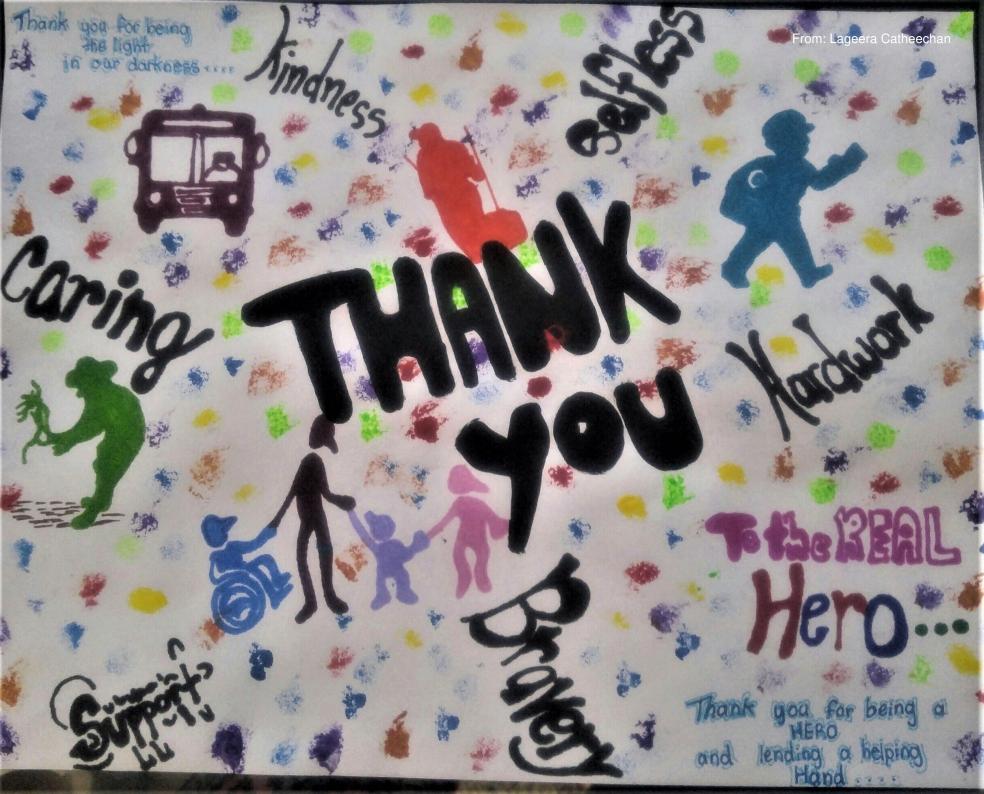






Thank you all so much for everything you do to keep our lives going through this unusual time!





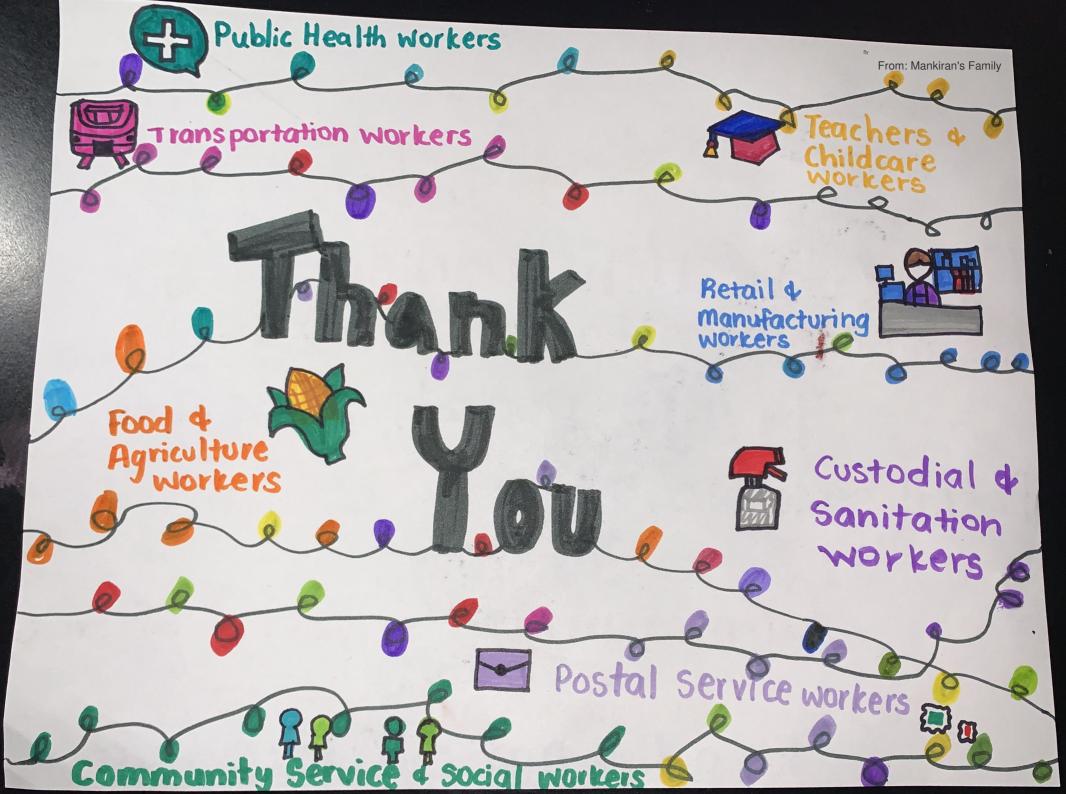
"As we express our gratitude, we must never

forget that the highest appreciation is not to

utter words, but to live by them"



From: Natnael Aklilu



To Our Unsung Heroes,

Everyday, you wake up knowing that you are about to risk your life. Your head fills with fear as you consider the dangers that lay in the day ahead. But you still get up.

Everyday, you leave your house knowing you could return with an invisible killer. Knowing that you could unintentionally infect someone you love. And yet, you still continue.

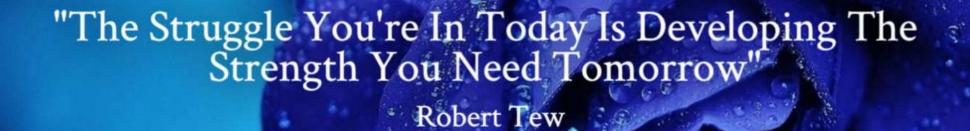
Everyday, you enter a workplace of hazards in horror of potential infection. You prepare to risk your health and well-being to ensure society can continue to function. Through public transportation. Through sanitation. Through postal services. Through agriculture. Through community service. Through social work. Through retail/manufacturing. Through education/childcare. Through public health. And you still go on.

Everyday, you put all the terrors of going to work aside and persist. You take on the heaviest burden of all, experiencing fear, hardship, and stress, all so the rest of us can continue on with our lives.

Everyday, your continuous perseverance, dedication, and determination to help society brightens our world in heroic ways.

Today, we see you. Today, we recognize and respect the sacrifices you have made and continue to make. Today, we thank you for your hard work and dedication. Today, we appreciate everything you do, everyday.

From: Jake Breen



Hope this quote helps, we're greatful for your work Even the highest

of mountains

can be climbed

with the

right attitude

willpower

Thank







all essential care workers

Vaccination Status in Cases July 1 – 15, 2021

Table 1. Vaccination status at the time of symptom onset, COVID-19 cases reported in Grey Bruce Jul 1-15, 2021

Vaccination Status	Case Count	% of total
Fully Vaccinated Cases	13	4.4%
Not Fully Vaccinated Cases	285	95.6%

Table 2. Vaccination status at the time of symptom onset, Grey Bruce COVID-19 cases admitted to hospital Jul 1-15, 2021 *

Vaccination Status	Case Count	% of total
Fully Vaccinated Cases	2	7.7%
Not Fully Vaccinated Cases	24	92.3%

Table 3. Vaccination status at the time of symptom onset, Grey Bruce COVID-19 cases admitted to ICU Jul 1-15, 2021 *

Vaccination Status	Case Count
Fully Vaccinated Cases	1
Not Fully Vaccinated Cases	7

Fully Vaccinated Cases are defined as individuals who has their complete two doses of vaccine and had a duration of 14 days pass following the second dose.

Not Fully Vaccinated Cases received no doses, or only one dose, or symptom onset less than 14 days after the second dose.

Notes: Cases include confirmed COVID-19 cases where GBHU is the investigation HU reported between Jul 1 and 15 2021. Hospitalized cases include those with an intervention date starting between July 1 and 15. Vaccination status is based on a match between a client's health card number in CCM and COVax. 15 cases missing HCN were excluded from Table 1 and the incidence rate calculations. Vaccination status is defined using the following categories 'Fully vaccinated' and 'Not Fully Vaccinated'.

^{*}Sample size too small to provide reliable conclusions. Larger sample size (federal/provincial) confirms vaccine provides more significant protection against hospitalization.



July 27, 2021

Protect Family and Friends - Become Their Vaccine Ambassador

Over 100,000 people in Grey Bruce chose the benefit of the protection from two doses of the COVID vaccine. This was an informed decision. The Grey Bruce Health Unit asks for help from those who have received the vaccine. We ask you to become ambassadors by sharing your life experience and pass on the basis of your decision to an unvaccinated person you know to increase their confidence in the vaccine.

Would you please ask younger family and friends (12 to 45-year-olds) to spend a few minutes per day learning <u>about COVID-19 vaccines</u>. If given motivation from family and friends and credible information, we are confident this will put them in a better position to make the best decision for themselves, their families, and the community.

The mass vaccination strategy in Grey Bruce has been successful in achieving its goal and is ramping down. We have reached the vaccine coverage target for the regular strains of COVID-19. However, the highly contagious Delta is now the dominant variant requiring a higher vaccine target of 90% coverage. In response, the Grey Bruce Health Unit and vaccine partners are ramping up the targeted strategy with pop-ups and drive-through clinics.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit works with Mayors, CAOs, and municipalities to deliver local pop-up and drive-through clinics across Grey Bruce. Our success is a direct reflection of the work and promotion dedicated by the town. Please advise family and fiends they can find the vaccine where they live, work and play. Access is simplified and more available with upcoming clinics including:

- Malls/Shopping Areas
- Gyms
- Clubs/Bars
- Movie Theatres
- Markets
- Popular Parks, hiking trails
- Skate Parks or similar
- Popular youth "hang-outs"
- Big Box Stores
- Sporting Events/Racing Event
- Any other suggested area from your residents (especially the youth)

A healthier future for all.

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Having everyone who is eligible fully vaccinated against COVID-19 is the most successful way to prevent COVID-19. There are Drop-In Vaccine Clinics every day in Grey Bruce. <u>Vaccine Schedule</u>

For More Information:

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