



Staff Report

Report Title: Emergency Management Update (22)

Prepared By: Emily Dance, Clerk

Department: Clerk

Date: Jul. 19, 2021

Report Number: CLK-2021-07-85

File Number:

P03-COV20

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information Report Number CLK-2021-07-85 prepared by Emily Dance, Clerk

Background:

Province of Ontario

As key public health and health care indicators continuing to improve and the provincewide vaccination rate surpassing the targets outlined in the province's Roadmap to Reopen, the Ontario government announced moving the province into Step Three of the Roadmap on Friday, July 16, 2021.

In order to enter Step Three of the Roadmap, Ontario needed to have vaccinated 70 to 80 per cent of individuals 18 years of age or older with one dose and 25 per cent with two doses for at least two weeks, ensuring a stronger level of protection against COVID-19.

Step Three (See Below for Additional Recommendations for Step 3 in Grey-Bruce) of the Roadmap focuses on the resumption of additional indoor services with larger numbers of people and restrictions in place. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 100 people with limited exceptions;
- Indoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 25 people;
- Indoor religious services, rites or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services permitted with physical distancing;

- Indoor dining permitted with no limits on the number of patrons per table with physical distancing and other restrictions still in effect;
- Indoor sports and recreational fitness facilities to open subject to a maximum 50 per cent capacity of the indoor space. Capacity for indoor spectators is 50 per cent of the usual seating capacity or 1,000 people, whichever is less. Capacity for outdoor spectators is 75 per cent of the usual seating capacity or 15,000 people, whichever is less;
- Indoor meeting and event spaces permitted to operate with physical distancing and other restrictions still in effect and capacity limited to not exceed 50 per cent capacity or 1,000 people, (whichever is less);
- Essential and non-essential retail with capacity limited to the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres;
- Personal care services, including services requiring the removal of a face covering, with capacity limited to the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres;
- Museums, galleries, historic sites, aquariums, zoos, landmarks, botanical gardens, science centres, casinos/bingo halls, amusement parks, fairs and rural exhibitions, festivals, with capacity limited to not exceed 50 per cent capacity indoors and 75 per cent capacity outdoors;
- Concert venues, cinemas, and theatres permitted to operate at:
 - up to 50 per cent capacity indoors or a maximum limit of 1,000 people for seated events (whichever is less)
 - up to 75 per cent capacity outdoors or a maximum limit of 5,000 people for unseated events (whichever is less); and up to 75 per cent capacity outdoors or a maximum of 15,000 people for events with fixed seating (whichever is less).
- Real estate open houses with capacity limited to the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres; and
- Indoor food or drink establishments where dance facilities are provided, including nightclubs and restobars, permitted up to 25 per cent capacity or up to a maximum limit of 250 people (whichever is less).

Face coverings in indoor public settings and physical distancing requirements remain in place throughout Step Three. This is in alignment with the [advice](#) on personal public health measures issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada, while also accounting for Ontario specific information and requirements.

As information changes frequently we are encouraging everyone to visit the [Provincial Website](#) to learn more about the restrictions in effect.

Grey Bruce Health Unit

On July 8, 2021 the Grey Bruce Health Units stated in a [press release](#) that as the Delta variant cases has increased in Grey Bruce, the region has been designated as a Delta variant hot spot by the province.

First identified as present in Grey Bruce in early June, the Delta variant, B.1.617.2, is considered a variant of concern as it is more transmissible. Cases are widespread throughout Grey Bruce. The increased risk of transmission requires everyone exercise diligence in reducing the spread of the virus.

On July 15, 2021 Dr. Arra issued a [press release](#) that Grey Bruce is moving into a **modified Step 3**, with strong recommendations instead of regulatory order to contain the spread of COVID-19, stating that Grey Bruce continues to see a significant number of COVID-19 cases with 99 per cent being the Delta variant. It is noteworthy that a large number of current cases are in individuals that were not vaccinated or became infected as the result of gatherings where COVID-19 precautions were not followed.

The decision to develop this roadmap, for a **modified Step 3** in Grey Bruce, was made with the approval of the office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and after consultation with hospital sector CEOs, and with the endorsement of other invested local, regional, and provincial partners.

While the Step 3 provincial reopening would relax restriction on the numbers that can gather, the Grey Bruce Health Unit strongly recommends current limits on private gatherings remain locally. It is recommended that an outdoor gathering can have a **maximum of 25 people and 5 for indoors**.

Additional recommendations for modified Step 3 in Grey Bruce include:

- The public is strongly encouraged to only dine outdoors.
- Workplaces and patrons follow public health measures, especially gyms, cinemas, and fast food locations.
- Church services and attendees, specifically wedding receptions, follow public health measures.
- Personal service settings and salons continue to require masks be worn, as in Step 2.

Vaccines

On July 13, 2021 the GBHU issued a [press release](#) indicating that Grey Bruce is on target to complete mass immunization in the Hubs by the end of July and encouraged everyone who needs the vaccine to get it as soon as possible, before the end of July.

The GBHU noted that individuals with second doses scheduled for August or September to re-book now. Anyone without an appointment can make one, online or by phone, or simply attend any of the current scheduled, walk-in, pop-up and drive-through vaccine clinics across Grey Bruce. Vaccine Schedule Participating pharmacies and primary care also have vaccine available.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit (GBHU) has a [dedicated webpage](#) that outlines the [weekly vaccine clinics](#) available in Grey-Bruce along with the many drop in clinic available in the area.

Discussion:

The Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) and Planning and Operations Group continue to meet weekly to assess changes in the pandemic and provide the required response when necessary.

On July 12, 2021, the MECG ratified the decision to participate in drive in vaccine clinics at the Ripley Community Centre and Lucknow Community Centre parking lots if requested by the GBHU. It is unknown at this time if they will be required.

Staff continues to monitor the changes and are making the necessary modifications to our services as outlined in Step 3.

Staff continues to update the website, deliver news releases, social media posts, electronic newsletters and hard copy newsletter to keep the residents informed on the pandemic and any modifications to services.

Financial Impacts:

The financial impacts related to the pandemic are not known at this time.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community by being open and transparent.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Emily Dance, Clerk

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer