



Staff Report

Report Title: Emergency Management Update (24)

Prepared By: Emily Dance, Clerk

Department: Clerk

Date: Sep. 8, 2021

Report Number: CLK-2021-09-107

File Number:

P03-COV20

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby approves Report Number CLK-2021-09-107 prepared by Emily Dance, Clerk AND authorizes that staff working remotely continue until the end of the year when it will be further evaluated AND FURTHER delegates the authority to approve exemptions to the Social Distancing Policy as it relates to out of town business travel for staff to the Planning and Operations Committee AND FURTHER ratifies an exemption to the Social Distancing Policy for the PW Director, Clerk and Deputy Clerk to attend out of town meetings as indicated in the report.

Background:

Province of Ontario

On September 1, 2021, the Province announced an enhanced vaccine certificate and verification app to stop the spread of COVID-19. Starting on September 22, 2021, Ontarians will need to be fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) and provide proof of vaccination along with photo ID to access certain public settings and facilities, including restaurants and bars (indoor) meeting and event spaces, facilities used for sports and fitness activities, sporting events, casinos, concerts, strip clubs and racing venues. This will not apply to settings where people received medical care, grocery stores or other essential goods. By October 22, 2021, Ontario will also introduce a digital vaccine receipt with a QR code. The announcement indicated that the vaccine credentials are a temporary measure and their necessity will be monitored and evaluated.

Grey Bruce Health Unit (GBHU)

GBHU continues to offer multiple pop-up vaccine clinics across the area. A Pop-Up Clinic took place on Wednesday August 25, 2021, from 4:00pm-7:00pm at the

Ripley-Huron Community Centre. This was a Walk-in, Bike-in or Drive-in clinic, all eligible ages (everyone 12+) with no requirement to register beforehand or health card required.

Discussion:

Return to Work – Staff

Following the 2020 Christmas holidays several administration staff have been working from home to reduce the number of staff members in the office as a safety precaution due to the pandemic. The plan was put in place until the end of September when it would be revisited.

On August 31, 2021, the Planning and Operations Committee discussed the feasibility of bringing back the full compliment of staff to the office or to remain status quo until the end of the year when it could be further evaluated.

Staff have taken a number of preventative measures to help ensure we protect our employees, having staff working from home when possible is one of these measures. With the threat of a fourth wave in the Fall, the Committee felt it extremely important that we remain vigilant in protecting staff and the public when possible.

As a result, the Planning and Operations Committee recommends that staff working remotely continue to do so until the end of the year when it will be further evaluated. Staff members working from home will continue to be available by phone and email.

Social Distancing Policy

The current social distancing policy does not permit out of town travel for staff business. Requests have brought forward to the Planning and Operations Committee to support exemptions to the policy for staff training and meetings. These requests are then ratified by Council.

To stream-line the process, staff is recommending that the Planning and Operations Committee be delegated the authority to approve exemptions to the Social Distancing Policy going forward.

Currently we have requests for the Director of Public Works to attend out of town business on September 17 and September 24 and the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk to attend a Bruce County Clerks meeting tentative for end of September.

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