

**Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health  
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES  
Wednesday, March 2, 2022**

---

The Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health met virtually via Zoom platform at 2:00 p.m.

**Members in attendance were:** Mr. George Bridge (Chair), Mr. Allan Alls, Ms. Christine Billings, Mr. Guy Gardhouse, Mr. Rodrigo Goller Mr. Ralph Manktelow and Mr. Chris White.

**Member(s) with regrets:** Ms. June Hofland

**Ex-officio member(s) in attendance:** Dr. Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO

**Staff members in attendance were:** Mr. David Kingma, Mr. Kyle Wilson, Mr. Rob Cunnington, Ms. Lise Trotz-Williams, Ms. Renee Charbonneau-Smith, Ms. Kelly Briscoe, Mr. Chuck Ferguson, Ms. Lisa Hebden, Ms. Camille Loucks, Mr. Patryk Wardach, Ms. Maryanne Kodras, Ms. Karen Mulvey, Mr. Jagjit Singh-Bajwa, Ms. Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary), Mr. Ryan Ochocki, Ms. April Pollington, and Mr. Emerson Rajaram.

**Guests in attendance were:** (MEDIA), Ms. Joanne Shuttleworth (Wellington Advertiser), Mr. Austin Cardinell (The Grand 101), Mr. Adam Donaldson (Guelph Politico), Mr. Jeff Turner (CTV), Anam Khan (Guelph Today) and member(s) of the public.

**1.0 Call to Order**

G. Bridge, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**2.0 Disclosure(s) of Pecuniary Interest**

**3.0** There are no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared at this time.

**4.0 Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: “To approve the Minutes of February 2, 2022, as presented.”**

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>G. Gardhouse</b>	
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>A. Alls</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>

**5.0 MOH Update(s)**

Dr. Mercer provided the following update:

- At the time of this meeting there are no longer any active Letters of Instruction (LOI) in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) region.
- Two Section 22 class orders remain in effect with regards to face coverings and driver instruction and examination vehicles.

- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) will align with provincial direction with regards to removal of the mask mandate unless there is specific local risk to extend.
- All Declaration of States of Emergency in WDG have now been lifted.
- There are two new vaccines that will be arriving in Ontario, Novavax (Nuvaxovid), which is a traditional protein-based vaccine and Medicigo Covifenz, which is a plant-based alternative. These vaccines will be available to those who are unable or unwilling to be vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine.
- Technology has played a large part in combating COVID-19, with new technologies such as mRNA being used to produce new vaccines.
- More than 95% of adults over the age of 18 have received an mRNA vaccine to date and this is clear evidence of the safety of mRNA vaccines.
- A board member requests clarification on COVID-19 pills and their availability in WDG.
- There are two general options available to treat COVID-19 if an individual is documented to have Covid and is in a high-risk group for complications. Paxlovid, an oral, at-home antiviral medication is approved and available in Ontario.
- There are medical criteria that need to be met for this treatment to be prescribed.
- WDGPH continues to try and vaccinate those individuals in the region who are most at risk for severe infection, including unvaccinated individuals, immunocompromised individuals, and those who are pregnant.
- Many pregnant individuals are choosing not to be vaccinated and this is posing a risk to the woman as well as their newborn child.
- A board member requests clarification regarding the need for a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose booster vaccine if an individual has been double vaccinated and has tested positive for the virus.
- Having 2 doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine protects very well against the Delta variant but does not protect well against Omicron. WDGPH recommends receiving a booster to further protect against Omicron. If an individual has proof that they have contracted COVID-19, you wait 8 weeks before receiving the booster dose. If there has been no evidence of a COVID-19 infection, an individual is eligible immediately.
- A board member requests clarification regarding 4<sup>th</sup> doses.
- 4<sup>th</sup> doses are currently only available for the severely immunocompromised, and those living in high-risk congregate settings.
- The Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) is projecting what Fall 2022 will bring regarding COVID-19 and WDGPH will follow any updates closely.

## 6.0 Presentation(s)

NONE.

## 7.0 Business Arising

- NONE.

## 8.0 BOH Report(s)

**BH.01.MAR0222.R03 – Annual Privacy Program Update**

Dr. Mercer introduced, and R. Ochocki reviewed BOH Report BH.01.MAR0222.R03, as follows:

- Dr. Mercer introduced newly hired Privacy Officer, Ryan Ochocki.

- In 2021, the privacy program was severely impacted due to the pandemic and staff was reassigned.
- There were more privacy breaches than in the past; 22 breaches in 2021, and 9 breaches in 2020.
- There were many more requests for access to information.
- Privacy training was paused during the pandemic, but WDGPH is working to have this restarted in 2022.
- The Agency’s staff nearly doubled in a very short time, and this influx of new staff was a contributing factor. However, the number of overall breaches per employee continues to decline based on historical trends.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.MAR0222.R03 – Annual Privacy Program Update, as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: A. Alls**  
**Seconded: C . Billings** **CARRIED**

<b>BH.01.MAR0222.R04 – Trends in Sexually Transmitted Infections in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph 2022</b>
---

Dr. Mercer introduced, and L. Trotz-Williams reviewed BOH Report BH.01.MAR0222.R04, as follows:

- This is an update on a report of the same name submitted in May of 2019.
- Local rates of infection continue to be lower than provincial rates.
- There were many changes made throughout the pandemic, one of which being access to testing.
- ARCH and other community partners have aided WDGPH in providing treatment throughout the last 2 years and beyond.
- The Agency will be reopening clinics and sexual health services in March 2022.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.MAR0222.R04 – Trends in Sexually Transmitted Infections in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph 2022, as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: R. Goller**  
**Seconded: C. White** **CARRIED**

**9.0 Committee (Verbal) Report(s)**

Executive Committee Report:

- None

Human Resources Committee Report:

- None

Finance + Audit Committee Report:

C. White, Chair, provided an update advising that the Finance + Audit Committee met, virtually on March 2, 2022, to review/discuss the following matters:

**BH.04.MAR0222.R01 – 2021 Fourth Quarter Financials**

C. White introduced and D. Kingma reviewed BOH Report BH.04.MAR0222.R01, as follows:

- This has been a challenging year for staff and other organizations, however pandemic costs above and beyond the base budget have been 100% covered by the Ministry of Health (MOH).
- For 2021 WDGPH met all requirements including unplanned and finished the year in a balanced position.
- Many of the expenditures in the cost-shared budget are under budget and this is because of the Agency’s pandemic response reassigning many staff.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health accepts the recommendation of the Finance + Audit Committee and receives Finance + Audit Committee Report BH.04.MAR0222.R01 – 2021 Fourth Quarter Financials, as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: C. Billings**  
**Seconded: A. Alls** **CARRIED**

*\*See Closed Session BOH Reports BH.04.MAR0222.R02 – Reserves and Reserve Funds Status & BH.04.MAR0222.R03– WDGPH Risk Management at #10 – Closed Session, below\**

Facilities Committee Report:

- None

**10.0 Correspondence**

- On February 23, 2022, the Board of Health sent a letter to the Honourable Christine Elliott and Dr. Kieran Moore re: Request for Equalization Funding to Bring WDG Public Health to 70/30 Funding Levels.
- WDGPH appreciates the MOH for everything they have done, however as noted within this letter there are only 5 out of 34 health units in Ontario that are under the 70/30 split. Currently, WDGPH is working with a 69/31 split.
- This letter was sent to flag the discrepancy.
- As the letter states, the population growth WDG has experienced has been significant and the forecast for further major increases is noted.
- The past 2 years have shown the province and country how important public health is and why proper funding is so important.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive the above-noted correspondence, as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: C. Billings**  
**Seconded: G. Gardhouse** **CARRIED**

Media and Public attendees were asked to disconnect from the meeting, at this time, as this Board of Health meeting contains a “Closed Session” section which falls under the exemptions pursuant to Section 239 of the *Municipal Act*. Please note that this session is **not** open to members of the public or the press.

(2:44) The Open Session portion of the meeting ended, and everyone disconnected from the meeting.

### 11.0 CLOSED SESSION

- To approve the Closed Session Board of Health Minutes of February 2, 2022
- Finance + Audit Committee (Verbal) Report from Chair – MAR 03/22:
  - BH.04.MAR0222.R02 – Reserves and Reserve Funds
  - BH.04.MAR0222.R03 – WDGPH Risk Management [property matters including security of property and/or a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the Board]
- MOH Updates – [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].

**MOTION: “To move into Closed Session to receive Verbal Reports – Reserves and Reserve Funds Status and WDGPH Risk Management [property matters including security of property and/or a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the Board] and to obtain MOH Updates [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].”**

**Moved: A. Alls**  
**Seconded: R. Manktelow** **CARRIED**

**Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Wednesday, March 2, 2022**

**CLOSED SESSION**

---

**Members in attendance were:** Mr. George Bridge (Chair), Mr. Allan Ails, Ms. Christine Billings, Mr. Guy Gardhouse, Mr. Rodrigo Goller, Mr. Ralph Manktelow and Mr. Chris White.

**Member(s) with regrets were:** Ms. June Hofland

**Ex-officio member(s) in attendance were:** Dr. Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO.

**Staff member(s) in attendance were:** Mr. Chris Beveridge, Mr. David Kingma, Mr. Kyle Wilson, and Ms. Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary).

**Guest(s) in attendance were:** NONE.

---

**CLOSED SESSION MINUTES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.**

**CLOSED SESSION MINUTES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.**

(3:29) Returned to Open Session.

**MOTION: “To Ratify the Closed Session Decisions of the March 2, 2022 Board of Health meeting.”**

Moved: R. Goller  
Seconded: R. Manktelow CARRIED

Motion(s) passed and brought forward from the March 2, 2022 Closed Session Meeting:

**MOTION: “To approve the Closed Session Minutes of February 2, 2022, as presented.”**

Moved: R. Goller  
Seconded: A. Alls CARRIED

**MOTION (1): “That the Board of Health accepts the recommendation of the Finance + Audit Committee and receives Finance + Audit Committee Report BH.04.MAR0222.R02 – Reserves and Reserve Funds Status, as presented, for information.”**

**MOTION (2): “That the Board of Health accepts the recommendation of the Finance + Audit Committee to approve the transfer of \$400,000 from the Cost-Shared Mandatory Programs Budget to the IT Reserve Fund.**

Moved: C. Billings  
Seconded: R. Manktelow CARRIED

Moved: R. Goller  
Seconded: A. Alls CARRIED

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health accepts the recommendation of the Finance + Audit Committee and receives Finance + Audit Committee Report BH.04.MAR0222.R03 – WDGPH Risk Management, as presented, for information.”**

Moved: C. White  
Seconded: A. Alls CARRIED

## 12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

**MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”**

Moved: C. Billings  
Seconded: A. Alls CARRIED