

**Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday June 9, 2021**

The Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit met virtually via Zoom platform at 4:00 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: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum (AMOH), Mr. Chris Beveridge, Ms. Rita Isley, Mr. David Kingma, Mr. Kyle Wilson, Mr. Patryk Wardach, Mr. Emerson Rajaram, A. Vanderlaan, J. Martalog, D. Williamson, K. Mulvey, R. LaRoche, M. Simpson, R. Cunnington, L. Hebden, K. Briscoe, M. Jantzi, J. Kraemer, Mr. Charles Wright and Ms. Shelley Nuhn (Recording Secretary).

Guests in attendance were: (PRESS) Ms. Joanne Shuttleworth (The Wellington Advertiser), Mr. Adam A. Donaldson (Guelph Politico), Ariel Deutschmann (Guelph Today) and members of the public.

1.0 Call to Order

G. Bridge, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

2.0 Disclosure(s) of Pecuniary Interest

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

The Chair expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board of Health for the hard work and dedication of the WDGPH staff, and acknowledged the accomplishments made throughout the pandemic.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: “To approve the Minutes of April 7, 2021, as presented.”

Moved: A. Alls
Seconded: C. White

CARRIED

4.0 MOH Update(s)

Dr. Mercer provided the following update:

- As the province reopens the economy at Step 1 on Friday, June 11th, WDGPH will continue to work on case and contact management, vaccine rollout and will begin to slowly transition back to pre-pandemic work throughout the summer.
- The WDGPH website and dashboards will continue to be updated and refreshed Monday to Friday at 10:00 p.m. The dashboards provide current data and information including detailed analysis of outbreaks and cases, and vaccine tracking.

5.0 Presentation(s)

WDGPH COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout – January 1 to Present

R. Isley presented and provided a detailed update, as follows:

- The Report includes a review of the pandemic timelines and highlights to date, updates on the vaccine rollout, plans throughout the summer, and transitioning out of the pandemic.
- The Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program has recently started to resume services in the Guelph office, and preparations are underway to resume delivery of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program.
- There are several vaccination clinic sites throughout WDG including five anchor sites (West End Recreation Centre, Orangeville Alder St Arena, Fergus Sportsplex, Linamar Skyjack and University of Guelph); specialized clinics and pop-up sites, mobile clinics (for homebound, long-term care and congregate settings), pharmacies, hospitals, physicians and health care partner sites.
- In April, immunization began for youth 12-17 years old. To date, 52% of this population have either been vaccinated or have an appointment scheduled. It is expected that all youth and families will have the opportunity to be vaccinated prior to school resuming in September.
- Clients 80+ years old will receive a phone call from WDGPH to schedule second dose appointments and clients between 70-79 will receive a date via email for their second dose appointment. Information on how to get second doses will be provided to the public through multi-media venues.
- The province is considering strategies for areas with significant increasing rates of the Delta variant. The prevalence of the Delta variant in a bordering community has created pressure for WDG to vaccinate as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.
- WDG is expected to hit a milestone of 75% of the population vaccinated by the end of June. All residents of WDG are strongly encouraged to make an appointment for vaccination as soon as possible through WDGPH, physicians or a pharmacy.
- Discussion ensued regarding the number of people not interested in getting vaccinated and the threat this could cause to our communities, including additional waves. A small percentage (approximately 10%) will refuse the vaccine, similar to other vaccines. There may be inconveniences in place for those who aren't vaccinated such as international travel, crossing borders, and restrictions at venues. Ebbs and flows of COVID-19 are expected for the future, similar to that of annual influenza. Highly vaccinated environments will be well controlled.
- The Chair expressed thanks for the detailed report and gave appreciation for staff pivoting and reacting quickly as needed.

6.0 Business Arising

- NONE.

7.0 Consent Agenda

- BH.01.JUN0921.C02 – Health Protection 2021 First Quarter Performance Indicator Summary – Program/Service Information Report

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive the Consent Agenda item which has been given due consideration, for information.”

Moved: C. Billings

Seconded: C. White

CARRIED

8.0 BOH Report(s)

BH.01.JUN0921.R04 – Health Analytics Update

Dr. Mercer acknowledged the work of the Health Analytics team in creating dashboards and building an online booking system. The dashboards have been instrumental in providing health data used to make wise and impactful decisions throughout the pandemic.

K. Wilson and J. Martalog spoke to BOH Report BH.01.JUN0921.R04, as follows:

- The Report provides an update as of June 7th on vaccine allocation, vaccination progress and statistics, and an update on the impact vaccination has had on the COVID-19 situation in WDG.
- The COVID-19 incidence in Ontario was not equal in April/May and because of this, the province made the decision to over-allocate to some areas. This meant additional vaccine was allocated to hot spots and WDG’s supply was reduced by 27%. Despite this, we were able to vaccinate 65,000 in the month of May, a significant increase over the previous month.
- As of June 7th, just under 180,000 residents received at least one dose, which accounts for more than two-thirds of eligible residents in WDG.
- The rate of COVID-19 cases in the region has decreased to 33/100,000 which is a significant drop from May 1st. Similarly, the reproductive number (Re) has dropped to 0.72.
- Discussion occurred about the current incidents and projections for the Delta variant in WDG. There is not a specific test for the Delta variant, therefore inferences are made to estimate. The Science Table estimates up to 20% of province-wide cases are Delta variant, however there is not a precise number for WDG at this time. Most of COVID-19 is the Alpha variant but it is expected the Delta variant will escalate.
- The Chair expressed thanks the team for developing the dashboards and keeping the information updated and available for the community.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.JUN0921.R04 – Health Analytics Update, as presented, for information.”

Moved: A. Alls

Seconded: R. Goller

CARRIED

BH.01.JUN0921.R05 – 2020 Annual Communications Report

Anna Vanderlaan, acting manager of Communications throughout pandemic spoke to BOH Report BH.01.JUN0921.R05, as follows:

- The BOH Report summarizes key communication highlights from the detailed 2020 Annual Communications Report.
- More than 13 awareness campaigns and one-off messages related to COVID-19 were developed. As well, many communications and engagement efforts were undertaken to educate the public and increase awareness about our local COVID-19 situation.
- Communications’ goal was to be responsive and supportive by maintaining an open and transparent dialogue and flow of information. Media releases doubled and media mentions increased by an unprecedented amount, from 317 in 2019 to 2,743 in 2020.
- WDGPH’s website has grown to become a trusted source of reliable information about the pandemic in our community with a 389 percent increase in users.
- Social media sites including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn saw significant growth in audiences, postings, impressions and engagements.
- The Chair acknowledged that the volume of information shared has been phenomenal and that the Full Communications Report was engaging and well presented.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.JUN0921.R05 – 2020 Annual Communications Report, as presented, for information.”

Moved: R. Goller
Seconded: C. Beveridge

CARRIED

9.0 Committee (Verbal) Report(s)

Executive Committee Report:

- NONE.

Human Resources Committee Report:

- NONE.

Finance + Audit Committee Report:

- NONE.

10.0 Correspondence

- NONE.

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.

(5:05) 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 April 7, 2021;
- Human Resources Committee Report from Chair – JUN 9, 2021;
 - Closed Session Human Resources Committee Report BH.05.JUN0921.R01 – Labour Relations Update (2021) [labour relations or employee negotiations].
- MOH Update(s) [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].
- Executive Committee (Verbal) Report from Chair – APR 22, 2021;
 - MOH/CEO Additional Hours [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees]

(5:05)

MOTION: “To move into Closed Session to approve Closed Session BOH Minutes of April 7, 2021; to review/discuss Closed Session Human Resources Committee Report BH.05.JUN0921.R01 Labour Relations Update (2021) [labour relations or employee negotiations]; to obtain MOH Update(s) [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees]; and to discuss Closed Session Executive Committee Verbal Report from Chair – MOH/CEO Additional Hours [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].”

Moved:

A. Alls

Seconded:

G. Guardhouse

CARRIED

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CLOSED SESSION

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

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

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Guest(s) in attendance were: NONE.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

(5:52) Returned to Open Session.

MOTION: “To Ratify the Closed Session Decisions of the June 9, 2021 Board of Health meeting.”

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

Motion(s) passed and brought forward from the June 9, 2021 Closed Session Meeting:

Human Resources Committee BH.05.JUN0921.R01 – Labour Relations Update

MOTION: “That the Board of Health accepts the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee to receive Closed Session Human Resources Committee Report BH.05.JUN0921.R01 as presented, and to approve the recommendations therein.”

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

Executive Committee Verbal Report

MOTION: “That the Board of Health accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee to receive Closed Session Verbal Report from the Chair – MOH/CEO Additional Hours as presented, and to approve the recommendations therein.”

Moved: G. Bridge
Seconded: G. Guardhouse **CARRIED**

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”

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