

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday July 8, 2020

The Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit met virtually (Zoom) at 2:30 p.m.

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

Member(s) with regrets: NONE.

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

Staff members in attendance were: Mr. Chris Beveridge, Ms. Rita Isley, Mr. David Kingma, Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum (AMOH), Mr. Kyle Wilson, Ms. Jennifer MacLeod, Ms. Karen Mulvey, Mr. Emerson Rajaram, Ms. Liz Robson, Ms. Maria Simpson, Ms. Diane Wallace, Mr. Patryk Wardach, Mr. Danny Williamson and Ms. Sylvia Muir (Recording Secretary).

Guests in attendance were: Ms. Joanne Shuttleworth, The Wellington Advertiser (Press) and Adam A. Donaldson, Guelph Politico.

1.0 Call to Order

G. Bridge (Chair), called the meeting to order at 2:39 p.m.

2.0 Disclosure(s) of Pecuniary Interest

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

3.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: “To approve the Minutes of June 3, 2020, as presented.”

Moved:	J. Hofland	
Seconded:	G. Gardhouse	CARRIED

4.0 MOH Updates

Rabies Baiting

- Rabies baiting is taking place in the jurisdiction of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph. WDGPH is currently providing rabies vaccine for a number of people following exposure to animals.

COVID-19

- The method of transmission of COVID-19 appears to be primarily respiratory droplets with fomites constituting a smaller source of infection. There is an on-going debate as to whether COVID-19 may be spread via airborne transmission. Evidence suggests that small respiratory droplets may be capable of traveling further than six (6) feet.
- There is substantial evidence that asymptomatic people may infect others. How much this contributes to community transmission versus symptomatic people is currently unknown. A growing body of evidence suggests that masking is beneficial as a source control to decrease the spread of respiratory droplets. The primary role of a face covering is to protect others.
- Employees that can perform their jobs at home, should continue to work from home.
- WDGPH's Section 22 Class Order (face coverings) has been in place for four (4) weeks, this Friday, and as a Health Unit, our numbers have slowly declined and there are no major outbreaks.
- WDGPH is currently planning for Stage 3 - Reopening of the Economy, which will mean more risky environments are open with more close contacts.
- A vaccine may be available by early 2021. Even with a vaccine, the operational requirement to immunize the population is considerable.

Lengthy discussion took place around using a Section 22 Class Order versus a By-Law for implementation of mandatory masking.

5.0 Presentation(s)

COVID-19 IMS Response

C. Beveridge commenced his PowerPoint Presentation:

- This presentation is a snapshot of our approach to manage the COVID-19 pandemic using the Incident Management System (IMS). IMS provides a standard framework for responding to events that require immediate reordering of priorities and deployment of human or material resources. There are certain management functions that still need to be carried out as part of an emergency response. All of WDGPH's resources are going towards dealing with this pandemic. The complexity of this pandemic has required WDGPH to remain in IMS. WDGPH's IMS uses the provincial pandemic framework. Day 1-49 were about containment (contain and reduce spread); Day 50-164 were about mitigation and Response (decrease morbidity and mortality). WDGPH is still in this stage. The next stage will be about recovery (routine response to infectious diseases). WDGPH's IMS organizational structure establishes a command and reporting clarity to ensure effective and coordinated response to all incidents. The command structure considers the number of individuals reporting to one person (span of control). All function is to support on-going Operations, which is being led by R. Isley.

MOTION:

- (a) **“That the Board of Health receive the COVID-19 IMS Response Presentation, as presented, for information.”**

Moved: J. Hofland
Seconded: R. Manktelow **CARRIED**

6.0 Business Arising

- NONE.

7.0 Consent Agenda

- NONE.

8.0 BOH Report(s)

BH.01.JUL0820.R10 – Preparing for a Second Pandemic Wave

Dr. Mercer introduced and Dr. Tenenbaum reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.JUL0820.R10.

MOTION:

- (a) **“That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.JUL0820.R10 – Preparing for a Second Pandemic Wave, as presented, for information.”**

Moved: J. Hofland
Seconded: R. Goller **CARRIED**

9.0 Committee (Verbal) Report(s)

Executive Committee Report:

- NONE.

Finance + Audit Committee Report:

- NONE.

Human Resources Committee Report:

- NONE.

10.0 Correspondence

- Ted Arnott, MPP, Wellington-Halton-Hills E-mail to Dr. Nicola Mercer, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Medical Officer of Health and CEO regarding Section 22 Class Order (Face Covering).

BOH commented that this letter is a really nice acknowledgment to Dr. Mercer and her entire Team.

- Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) Letter to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario regarding Boards of Health – Order in Council Appointments.

BOH commented that they are really pleased that the ALPHA letter is so strongly worded.

MOTION:

- (a) **“That the Board of Health receive the above-noted Correspondence, as presented, for information.”**

Moved: J. Hofland
Seconded: A. Alls

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.

11.0 CLOSED SESSION

- To approve the June 3, 2020 Closed Session BOH Minutes.
- Closed Session BOH Report BH.01.JUL0820.R11 – COVID-19: Agency Administrative Implications [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].
- MOH Update(s) [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].

(3:53)

MOTION: “To move into Closed Session to approve Closed Session BOH Minutes of June 3, 2020; to review Closed Session BOH Report BH.01.JUL0820.R11 – COVID-19: Agency Administrative Implications [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees]; and to obtain/discuss MOH Update(s) [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].”

Moved: J. Hofland
Seconded: G. Gardhouse

CARRIED

(3:52) The Open Session portion of the meeting ended and everyone disconnected from the Open Session portion of the meeting.

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CLOSED SESSION

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

Member(s) with regrets were: Mr. Ralph Manktelow.

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

Staff member(s) in attendance were: Mr. Chris Beveridge, Ms. Rita Isley, Mr. David Kingma, Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Mr. Kyle Wilson and Ms. Sylvia Muir (Recording Secretary).

Guest(s) in attendance were: NONE.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

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(4:55) Returned to Open Session.

MOTION: “To Ratify the Closed Session Decisions of the July 8, 2020 Board of Health meeting.”

Moved: A. Alls
Seconded: G. Gardhouse **CARRIED**

Motion(s) brought forward from Closed Session:

MOTION: “To approve the Closed Session Minutes of June 3, 2020, as presented.”

Moved: C. Billings
Seconded: J. Hofland **CARRIED**

MOTION:

(a) “That the Board of Health receive Closed Session BOH Report BH.01.JUL0820.R11 – COVID-19: Agency Administrative Implications, as presented, for information.”

Moved: J. Hofland
Seconded: G. Gardhouse **CARRIED**

Direction and Authorization was provided for a BOH Letter to be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable Christine Elliott (Minister of Health) and Dr. David Williams (Chief Medical Officer of Health), copying the WDG MPPs, with respect to establishing a provincial approach for face coverings.

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”

Moved: G. Gardhouse
Seconded: J. Hofland **CARRIED**