

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday December 2, 2020

The Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit met virtually (Zoom) 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, 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, Mr. Rob Cunningham, Ms. Diane Durk, Ms. Rosalyn LaRochelle, Ms. Karen Mulvey, Ms. Marlene Jantzi-Bauman, Mr. Danny Williamson, Mr. Shawn Zentner and Ms. Sylvia Muir (Recording Secretary).

Guests in attendance were: MEDIA: Joanne Shuttleworth (Wellington Advertiser) and Adam A. Donaldson (Guelph Politico).

1.0 Call to Order

G. Bridge (Chair), called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 November 4, 2020, as presented.”

Moved:	A. Alls	
Seconded:	C. White	CARRIED

4.0 MOH Updates

Flu Program

- Flu vaccine distribution commenced on September 15, 2020.
- 65,795 doses were distributed to WDGPH Health Care Providers.
- 6,934 doses were administered at WDGPH on-site clinics and in congregate settings. Approximately 33% identified as high-risk. 829 clients received the high-dose Fluzone.

- 37,346 doses were billed/administered through Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph pharmacies.
- Flu appointments continue to be offered, at WDGPH offices, into 2021.

Overview of Cases

- The virus is circulating very widely in our area.
- This virus is highly contagious and is transmitted from person-to-person. Settings where individuals have to remove a mask (such as lunchrooms and breakrooms) have been a source of outbreaks within workplaces. WDGPH meets the criteria for RED, so anticipate we will move to RED - Cabinet decision is set to be released on Friday.
- WDGPH dashboard has received high praise for providing up-to-date, detailed information. WDGPH continues to add information to the dashboard.
- There is a two-week lag before social activities translate into COVID-19 results. The results of any restriction(s) often take weeks to result in improvements.
- There are many people who live in Guelph and work in red zones/lockdown areas. It is very difficult to control the comings and goings of all citizens in and out of red zones. WDGPH would like to see the emphasis of Public Health measures in all businesses (100% of the time). If those rules are followed, we can continue to stay open. What is driving this pandemic is still primarily private social gatherings. In order to stop this disease, people should not be going into other peoples' homes, and they should not be inviting others, including friends and family, into their own homes.

3-Ply Masks

- There are different grades of masks (N95, medical and home-made/cloth masks). Well made masks can be almost as good as medical grade masks (need to use good quality cotton and it needs to be at least 2-ply). Gators do not provide adequate protection and they are typically only 1-ply. A face shield is not a replacement for a face mask
- Emerging science is providing evidence that wearing a mask also provides protection to the wearer as well as to others.

5.0 Presentation(s)

- NONE.

6.0 Business Arising

2021 BOH Meeting Schedule

- There will be no BOH meetings in January and October 2021 but the Executive Committee may need to meet, in January, in order to discuss COVID-19 vaccine distribution.
- BOH Orientation, cyber risk training and Committee appointments will take place at the February BOH meeting.
- There will be eight (8) scheduled BOH meetings in 2021 including: February, March, April, May, June, September, November and December. Committee meetings will be scheduled back-to-back to BOH meetings.

MOTION:

- (a) **“That the Board of Health eliminate the January and October 2021 BOH meetings.”**

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

Office Hours – Holiday Closure

- This has been a tradition and is an annual gift from the BOH to all WDGPH staff. Dr. Mercer emphasized that all WDGPH staff continue to work extremely hard on the COVID-19 response.

MOTION:

- (a) **“That the Board of Health authorizes and directs Dr. Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO to close the WDGPH offices, for a full day on Tuesday December 29, 2020, and to grant all employees the time off with pay.”**

Moved: J. Hofland
Seconded: A. Alls **CARRIED**

7.0 Consent Agenda

- NONE.

8.0 BOH Report(s)

BH.01.DEC0220.R18 – Well Water Research Project + Program Update

Dr. Mercer introduced and S. Zentner spoke to BOH Report BH.01.DEC0220.R18. This is a very important project that will make significant improvement for WDG rural properties.

MOTION:

- (a) **“That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.DEC0220.R18 – Well Water Research Project + Program Update, as presented, for information.”**

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

BH.01.DEC0220.R19 – COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks within Schools

Dr. Mercer introduced and Dr. Tenenbaum spoke to BOH Report BH.01.DEC0220.R19. This was a learning experience for everyone involved (PH, schools, parents, etc.).

MOTION:

- (a) **“That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.DEC0220.R19 – COVID-19 Cases and Outbreak within Schools, as presented, for information.”**

Moved: R. Goller
Seconded: G. Gardhouse **CARRIED**

BH.01.DEC0220.R20 – Clinical Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Mercer introduced and R. LaRoche spoke to BOH Report BH.01.DEC0220.R20.

MOTION:

- (a) **“That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.DEC0220.R20 – Clinical Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic, as presented, for information.”**

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

BH.01.DEC0220.R21 – Racism as a Public Health Issue

Dr. Mercer introduced and Dr. Tenenbaum spoke to BOH Report BH.01.DEC0220.R21. The BOH recognized that this is a very important Report. Pandemic has highlighted systemic racism. WDGPH will continue to monitor and measure the impacts within our jurisdiction. This is an internal and external learning experience. This is planned to be the beginning of a series of BOH Reports coming back to the BOH.

MOTION:

- (a) **“That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.DEC0220.R21 – Racism as a Public Health Issue, as presented, for information.”**

Moved: R. Goller
Seconded: G. Gardhouse **CARRIED**

MOTION:

- (b) **“That the Board of Health acknowledge that racism is a Public Health issue.”**

Moved: R. Goller
Seconded: G. Gardhouse **CARRIED**

MOTION:

- (c) **“That the Board of Health engage with local leaders and individuals in indigenous and racialized communities to better understand the local experience of racism as a Public Health issue and how it can be addressed.”**

Moved: R. Goller
Seconded: G. Gardhouse **CARRIED**

MOTION:

- (d) “That the Board of Health continues to analyze and use surveillance data to assess and report on racial health inequities in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph. Where there are gaps in data, enhance public health surveillance systems by collecting and analyzing race-based data at the individual and structural levels.”

Moved: R. Goller
Seconded: G. Gardhouse **CARRIED**

Note: See Closed Session BOH Report BH.01.DEC0220.R22 Below @ #11.

9.0 Committee (Verbal) Report(s)

Executive Committee Report:

- NONE.

Finance + Audit Committee Report:

- NONE.

Human Resources 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.

(5:06) The Open Session portion of the meeting ended and everyone disconnected from the meeting.

11.0 CLOSED SESSION

- To approve the November 4, 2020 Closed Session BOH Minutes.
- Closed Session BOH Report BH.01.DEC0220.R22 – Preschool Speech and Language: Wee Talk Program [property matters including security of property and/or a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the Board].
- MOH Update(s) [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].

(0:00)

MOTION: “To move into Closed Session to approve Closed Session BOH Minutes of November 4, 2020; to review/discuss Closed Session BOH Report BH.01.DEC0220.R22 – Preschool Speech and Language: Wee Talk Program [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees] and MOH Update(s) [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees]”.

Moved: J. Hofland
Seconded: A. Alls **CARRIED**

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CLOSED SESSION

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Member(s) with regrets were: NONE.

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

Staff member(s) in attendance were: Mr. Christopher 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.

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(6:15) Returned to Open Session.

MOTION: “To Ratify the Closed Session Decisions of the December 2, 2020 Board of Health meeting.”

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

Motion(s) brought forward from Closed Session:

MOTION: “To approve the Closed Session Minutes of November 4, 2020, as presented.”

Moved: J. Hofland
Seconded: A. Alls **CARRIED**

Closed Session BOH Report BH.01.DEC0220.R22 – Preschool Speech and Language: Wee Talk Program

(a) MOTION: “That the Board of Health receives Closed Session BOH Report BH.01.DEC0220.R22 – Preschool Speech and Language: Wee Talk Program, as presented, for information.”

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

Closed Session MOH Update re Collaborative Agreement

(a) MOTION: “That the Board of Health provides authorization and direction for Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO, to enter into a Time-Limited Agreement with the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team, for shared services, ensuring that the Agreement provides adequate exit strategies should any portion of the Agreement pose a conflict and/or risk to the Agency.”

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

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m. The next meeting is February 3, 2021.

MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”

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