

**Chatham-Kent Board of Health
Minutes**

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

11:00 a.m.

Call to Order

Present: Councillor Joe Faas (Chair)
Councillor Karen Kirkwood-Whyte
Councillor Brock McGregor (Vice-Chair)
Ms. Noreen Blake
Mr. Michael Genge
Ms. Magdiel Hoste
Teresa Bendo, Director, Public Health
Dr. David Colby, Medical Officer of Health
Dr. April Rietdyk, General Manager, Community Human Services
Lisa Powers, Executive Assistant, Community Human Services

Regrets: Councillor Carmen McGregor

1. Provision for Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No member of the Board declared a pecuniary interest on any matter on the open session agenda.

2. Minutes of the Board Meeting of

Councillor B. McGregor moved, seconded by Mr. Genge:

“That the minutes of the Board of Health meeting of December 16, 2020 be approved.”

The Chair put the Motion.

Motion Carried

3. Business Arising from the Minutes - None

4. Education/Training

a) COVID-19 update, by Dr. David Colby, Medical Officer of Health

In an effort to update the Board, Dr. Colby provided a PowerPoint presentation and outlined the following points:

- Overview of the Coronavirus makeup, spread, incubation period, and contagious period
- At the time of this presentation, Chatham-Kent is at 1039 confirmed cases, with 91 active cases and five deaths

- There were six outbreaks in Chatham-Kent at the time of this presentation
- Control measures such as personal precautions, provincial restrictions, and vaccination are key

b) Vaccines presentation, by Dr. David Colby, Medical Officer of Health

In an effort to update the Board on COVID-19 vaccines, Dr. Colby shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the following points:

- The two vaccines currently approved in Canada are Pfizer and Moderna, both are mRNA vaccines
- Overview of how these types of vaccines work in the body
- There is no infection through vaccination as no intact virus is introduced into the body through the vaccine
- mRNA vaccines are safe and very effective at triggering an immune response
- mRNA vaccines are faster and easier to produce

In response to questions from the Board, Dr. Colby indicated:

- These vaccines were produced so quickly as several steps were able to be completed concurrently.
- The number of vaccine doses available in Ontario is determined by the amount that Health Canada releases; Ontario has an allotted portion of the vaccines available for release. “Hot spot” jurisdictions are expected to get the first round of doses. Chatham-Kent is prepared for when our first shipment arrives.
- Information on COVID-19 and vaccines is being translated to other languages for distribution; Health Unit communications team can provide this information when available.

Councillor Kirkwood-Whyte moved, seconded by Ms. Hoste:

“That the two presentations be received as information.”

The Chair put the Motion.

Motion Carried

5. New Business

A. Items Requiring Action - None

B. Information Reports to be received

a) Director's Update for the Month of January, 2021, prepared by Teresa Bendo

Background

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of current events or issues arising at Public Health.

Comments

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Planning

As COVID-19 vaccines begin to roll out across the province, Chatham-Kent Public Health and the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance are working together with the Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team and community partners to coordinate the initial delivery of the COVID-19 vaccines to priority populations in Chatham-Kent.

In accordance with the Government of Ontario's Vaccination Plan and Ethical Framework for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution priority populations are determined based on an Ethical Framework for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution. The first to receive the vaccine in Chatham-Kent will include health care workers; residents, staff, essential caregivers and other employees of congregate living settings; adults in Indigenous communities; and adults receiving chronic home health care. Communities in "Red" and "Grey" zones in the Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework prior to the Province-Wide Shutdown are being prioritized for distribution of the vaccine. Before the shutdown, Chatham-Kent was in the "Yellow-Protect" zone.

While a specific date has not been set by the province for Chatham-Kent to receive vaccines, a local working group is developing a comprehensive distribution plan. This group is chaired by the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance and Chatham-Kent Public Health, and will be spearheaded by Bob Crawford, former General Manager and Fire Chief for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. Factors considered in the rollout include site selection, security, storage requirements, stakeholder involvement, and adherence to provincial guidelines. Multiple scenarios and plans are required due to the complexity of needs associated with different vaccines, and to ensure a safe, fair, and quick distribution practice.

Public Health Business Continuity and Service Delivery

Since the holiday season, CK Public Health has seen a significant and sustained climb in cases of COVID-19. As a result, the key priorities for CK Public Health will be:

- Case and contact management and follow up
- Essential public health programs as per business continuity plan
- Pandemic communications
- Planning for COVID-19 vaccination clinics
- Health promotion related to COVID -19 vaccine hesitancy

As per the business continuity plan, CK Public Health as of January 4 will provide only those programs deemed essential. This includes, but is not limited to: health hazard investigations; rabies investigations; demand inspections; 48 hour baby calls and hospital visit before discharge; non- COVID-19 outbreak management; cold chain management; sexually transmitted infections contact tracing; needle supplies pick up; emergency dental services referrals; and urgent clinic visits.

Ongoing Training/Education in Public Health Topics

From Risk to Resilience: An Equity Approach to COVID-19 (report)

The annual report of the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada provides an opportunity to examine the state of public health in Canada and to stimulate dialogue about issues critical to the health of Canadians. This year's report describes the heavy toll that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Canadian society, both directly and through the steps taken to mitigate its effect. This report demonstrates that the health of Canadians is dependent on a set of fundamental social determinants. COVID-19 has underscored the inequities in health that are shaped by these determinants, highlighted how these inequities may be exacerbated in the context of a pandemic, and shown how they can aggravate and prolong the spread of disease, making the pandemic worse.

Time commitment: This report is lengthy as a whole. It is recommended it be approached in sections. A good place to start is Section 2: "COVID-19 is not impacting Canadians equally".

Supports: Health Equity Guideline and Program Standards

Consultation

There was no consultation involved in producing this information report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications with this information report.

Ms. Blake moved, seconded by Mr. Genge:

“That the report be received as information.”

The Chair put the Motion.

Motion Carried

C) Items to be Received and Filed

Ms. Blake moved, seconded by Mr. Genge:

“That items a through c be received and filed”

- a) Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa) Information Break, dated December 18, 2020
- b) Letter from Peter Julian, MP New-Westminster-Burnaby regarding Bill C-213 The Canada Pharmacare Act
- c) Memo from Christine Elliott, Minister of Health, regarding 2021 COVID-19 Extraordinary Costs

The Chair put the Motion.

Motion Carried

Regarding item b) Letter from Peter Julian, MP New-Westminster-Burnaby regarding Bill C-213 The Canada Pharmacare Act:

Councillor B. McGregor moved, seconded by Councillor Kirkwood-Whyte:

“That administration offer a letter of support, and that the Municipality of Chatham-Kent support Bill C-213 as well.”

The Chair put the Motion.

Motion Carried

6. Non-Agenda Items

Councillor B. McGregor shared a motion from the Toronto Board of Health regarding paid sick days for Ontarians during COVID-19 and beyond.

Councillor B. McGregor moved, seconded by Councillor Kirkwood-Whyte:

“That the Chatham Kent Board of Health further endorse the Toronto Board of Health position that the Government of Ontario:

1) require employers in Ontario to provide no less than five paid sick days annually to workers after three months of employment, through amendments to the Employment Standards act, 2000, or through a different mechanism, and

2) provide necessary funding, fiscal relief, and/or supports to employers so that all workers in Ontario have access to no less than 10 paid sick days annually in the event of a declared infectious disease emergency such as the COVID 19 pandemic

And that a letter outlining this position be forwarded to the relevant provincial ministers, and local MPPs.”

The Chair put the Motion.

Motion Carried

7. Time, Date and Place for the Next Meeting of the Board

The next meeting of the Board will be held electronically on Wednesday February 17, 2021, with the open portion of the meeting to start at 11:00 AM.

8. Adjournment

Moved by that the meeting be adjourned by Councillor B. McGregor at 12:01 PM

Joe Faas, Chair