

**Chatham-Kent Board of Health
Minutes**

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

11:00 AM

Call to Order

Present: Councillor Joe Faas (Chair)
Councillor Karen Kirkwood-Whyte
Councillor Brock McGregor (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Carmen McGregor
Ms. Noreen Blake
Mr. Joshua Caron
Mr. Michael Genge
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: Ms. Magdiel Hoste

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 February 17, 2021

Mr. Genge moved, seconded by Councillor Kirkwood-Whyte:

“That the minutes of the Board of Health meeting of February 17, 2021 be approved.”

The Chair put the Motion.

Motion Carried

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Paid Sick Leave During COVID-19 and Beyond

The Board reviewed a letter sent from administration to the Premier.

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

“That the letter on paid sick leave during COVID-19 and beyond be accepted.”

The Chair put the Motion.

Motion Carried

4. Education/Training

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

In an effort to update the Board, Dr. Colby shared a PowerPoint highlighting the following points:

- Most new cases in Chatham-Kent appear to be stemming from social gatherings
- Two additional vaccines have been approved for use in Canada since the last Board meeting; Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca
- The booster program has been adjusted to allow for vaccination of as many people as possible with a first dose; booster will now be at sixteen weeks from first date of first dose
- Chatham-Kent is currently number one in Ontario in population vaccination rates

In response to a question from the Board regarding the strategy around Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW), Dr. Colby indicated this group falls under Phase 2 of the provincial roll-out plan. The federal government has just rolled out a new plan with regard to transportation and enhanced quarantine measures for TFW, however there is currently no plan in place to vaccinate as soon as they arrive in Canada.

In response to a question from the Board regarding confusion around indoor gathering limits in homes, Dr. Colby indicated that technically in the Red-Control level, five people are allowed indoors with physical distancing in place, however it is not recommended to have visitors from outside your household.

In response to a question from the Board regarding booster vaccine for Indigenous adults currently not living on-reserve, Dr. Colby indicated that the booster vaccine will be available to this group at the 16 week mark past their first dose. Indigenous Elder Care Center residents and Indigenous adults living on-reserve will be on the original four week booster schedule.

Ms. Blake moved, seconded by Mr. Caron:

“That the COVID-19 and vaccine update by Dr. Colby be received.”

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 March, 2021, prepared by Teresa Bendo

This report is for the information of the Board of Health.

Background

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

Comments

COVID-19 Vaccination Plan- Progress

At the time of the writing of this report, the CK Vaccination Team is solidly in phase 1A/1B of its [phased vaccination plan](#). Individuals in phase 1A and 1B are being immunized in parallel as per the provincial direction.

Progress to date includes:

First doses have been completed for residents of long term care, high risk retirement homes, and Indigenous Elder care homes in Chatham-Kent. Second doses are near completion for residents of long term care, high risk retirement homes, and Indigenous Elder care homes in Chatham-Kent.

First doses have begun for:

- Staff and essential care givers of long term care homes and high risk retirement homes
- Alternative level of care patients in hospital. A process is in place to continually identify and immunize those patients.
- Health care workers in accordance with Ministry of Health guidance.
- Adults age 80 and up, with individuals age 75 and up beginning March 10
- Staff, residents, essential care givers in other retirement homes and other congregate living homes for seniors.
- Indigenous adults living on a reserve

As part of its mobile clinic strategy, the Vaccination Team is working with the staff of the temporary municipal shelter to immunize its residents. The team is working with Ska:na Family Learning Centre, the United Way Homelessness/Indigenous situation table and others to plan pop up clinics for individuals experiencing homelessness and First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Peoples.

On March 8, the province issued an updated schedule for second doses, requesting the time interval of the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines be extended up to 16 weeks. Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges and Assisted Living facilities who are at the greatest risk of both exposure to COVID-19 and serious illness and death will continue to receive vaccine at the intervals described in the product monographs.

The recruitment for additional immunizers and support staff for the mass immunization clinic is well underway.

Ongoing Training/Education in Public Health Topics

In 2020, CK Public Health declared racism a public health issue. The following resources explore race and health equity.

[Let's Talk: Whiteness and health equity](#)

This brief read helps to:

- reflect on your racial identity and your responses to discussions of racism, Whiteness and White supremacy;
- identify examples of how Whiteness shows up in public health;
- describe the impact of Whiteness on health and well-being; and
- identify entry points for public health organizations to disrupt Whiteness in practice and policy.

Time commitment: 20 minutes

[Let's Talk: Racism and health equity](#)

This second brief read helps to:

- describe key concepts related to race and racism;
- explain the relationship between racism and wellbeing;
- identify entry points for anti-racism work in public health; and
- support a conversation in your organization about how to develop strategies to eliminate racism.

Time commitment: 20 minutes

Racism in the time of COVID-19

This [2 minute video](#) by Doctors without Borders shares how COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting racialized people because of longstanding racial inequities in health care. Although the content is American, the same disproportionate impacts are seen here in Canada (here is the detailed report: [COVID-19 – What we know so far about...Social Determinants of Health](#)).

Consultation

There was no consultation involved in producing this information report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications with this information report.

b) Improvements for CK Public Health's Harm Reduction Program, prepared by Emily Guerin, Public Health Educator

This report is for the information of the Board of Health.

Background

On January 13, 2020, Council passed a motion requesting that CK Public Health provide recommendations regarding improvements to the harm reduction program. Council further requested that the recommendations in the report be informed by consultations conducted by CK Public Health with community partners. As a result, CK Public Health conducted interviews, focus groups, and surveys with community partners to inform and prepare a recommendation report outlining the strengths and opportunities for improvement of its harm reduction program.

On February 1, 2021, a recommendation report regarding improvements for CK Public Health's harm reduction program was presented to Council. A copy of this report is attached as Appendix A.

The report recommended that:

1. Mandatory training on safe sharps disposal practices be continued for all municipal staff, students, and volunteers to complete upon hire.
2. Enhanced safe sharps disposal training be implemented for municipal staff, students, and volunteers who are at higher risk of encountering sharps in their work.
3. Existing applicable policies be updated to include awareness related to mental health and substance use stigma and these updated policies be reviewed by all staff.

4. Enhanced training on mental health and substance use stigma be implemented for all municipal staff who interact with residents from vulnerable populations.
5. The amount of \$10,500 be approved to purchase and install seven 24-hour sharps disposal bins across Chatham-Kent, and that this purchase be funded from the approved 2020 Drug Strategy.
6. The amount of \$18,000 be approved to establish a contract with a biohazardous waste disposal company to regularly empty the bins, and that this purchase be funded from the approved 2020 Drug Strategy. Ongoing costs for this project will be referred to the 2022 budget process.
7. Administration be directed to explore options for a sharps disposal waste depot for the community.

Comments

The purpose this report is to update the Board on the information and recommendations presented to Council.

The recommendations were approved unanimously with an amendment to extend the training on mental health and substance use to interested members of Municipal Council. After the report was approved, CK Public Health reconvened to begin considering next steps. As a result, CK Public Health will be connecting with various municipal departments, community partners, and people with living/lived expertise (PWLE) of substance use to determine how best to implement and evaluate the recommendations.

The implementation and evaluation plan will be brought to the Board for review prior to updating Council.

Consultation

There was no consultation involved in producing this information report. Consultation will occur with the development of the implementation and evaluation plan.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications resulting from this information report.

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

“That the two reports be received as information.”

The Chair put the Motion.

Motion Carried

C) Items to be Received and Filed

Councillor C. McGregor moved, seconded by Ms. Blake:

“That items a through c be received and filed”

- a) Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) Information Break, dated February 19, 2021
- b) Letter from ALPHA to Premier Ford, regarding Keeping Ontario Safe and Open,
- c) June 2021 ALPHA AGM Notice and Calls

In regard to item c, Councillor C. McGregor noted the notice of AGM, and encouraged all members of the Board to attend if possible. Ms. Powers will share the details when available.

The Chair put the Motion.

Motion Carried

6. Non-Agenda Items - None

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

The next meeting of the Board will be held virtually on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, with the open portion of the meeting to start at 11:00 AM.

8. Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Genge that the meeting be adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Joe Faas, Chair