As part of our on-going efforts to keep you up-to-date on COVID-19 related information, we are providing resources and links that may be useful for you and your organization.

Please be advised you are receiving this email notification based on previous electronic communications with the Grey Bruce Health Unit and/or our community partners. If you do not wish to receive these communication updates from Grey Bruce Public Health, please email: c.rossitter@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Thursday, May 7, 2020

Here are links to some recent COVID-19 resources/information you may find useful. Many of these items are available on the GBHU website and may be shared publicly.

Please note: the COVID-19 section of the Grey Bruce Public Health website has been recently updated. It includes general COVID-19 information, inquiries, and resources, information for health care providers, and information on the recovery phase.

1. Considerations for Essential Small Businesses
2. Connecting with Family and Celebrating Mother’s Day During COVID-19
3. Considerations for Rental and Shared Equipment
4. Considerations for Funeral and Bereavement Services
5. Considerations for the Exchange of Second Hand Items
6. GBHU Daily Situation Report
7. OPHA COVID-19 Summary of Key Developments for May 5-6, 2020 (below Social Media links)

Follow the Grey Bruce Health Unit on Social Media:

Facebook: Grey Bruce Health Unit
Twitter: GBPublicHealth
Instagram: gbpublichealth
YouTube: GreyBruceHealthUnit
OPHA COVID-19 Key Developments May 6

Provincial Developments

Here are the main announcements and messages conveyed by Premier Ford today.

Ontario Extends Electricity Rate Relief and Emergency Orders:

- The Ontario government has extended until May 19th the emergency orders that have been put in place under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. This includes the closure of child care centres, outdoor amenities in parks and recreational areas, non-essential workplaces, public places and bars and restaurants, along with restrictions on social gatherings and the prohibition of price gouging. You can find a list of emergency orders here.
- Additionally, all publicly-funded schools and provincial parks and conservation reserves will remain closed until at least May 31, 2020.
- Ontarians who pay time-of-use electricity rates will continue to be billed at off-peak pricing 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until May 31, 2020.

Ontario Further Eases Restrictions on Retail Stores and Essential Construction:

Premier Ford emphasized that "as the trends improve, we can move forward with reopening more and more of our economy and getting people back to work" and announced that the following businesses will be able to open in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Guidance Document for Essential Workplaces and occupational health and safety requirements:

- garden centres and nurseries for in-store payment and purchases, operating under the same guidelines as grocery stores and pharmacies starting Friday, May 8 at 12:01 a.m.;
- hardware stores and safety supply stores for in-store payment and purchases at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, May 9; and
- retail stores with a street entrance can begin offering curbside pickup and delivery, on Monday, May 11 at 12:01 a.m.

In addition to easing restrictions on retail stores, the government is also expanding essential construction to allow below-grade multi-unit residential construction projects like apartments and condominiums to begin and above-grade projects to continue.

When asked by the media for any "good news" for restaurants, the Premier replied that he will have that answer "as quickly as these numbers come down... hopefully sooner than later". Restaurant owners were encouraged to start looking through the health and safety requirements to "get ready".

Summary of Cases in Ontario and Canada

Trends and data-collection in Ontario:

- The Chief Medical Officer of Ontario, Dr. Williams, described the following trends emerging from the daily numbers of COVID-19 cases:
  - The daily increase in cases is gradually slowing down;
  - Tuesday numbers are usually low as they represent the lab report for the tests that came on Sunday, which are lower compared to weekdays; and
  - All things are trending in the right direction as a result of Ontarians complying with physical distancing and other public health measures.
• Dr. Williams also said that the province is "going to be collecting the SES data" and look at how to collect and use it "to change ... policies and target ...programs to deal with very unique ones in unique settings, racial ones as well. We want to know which ones in Canada are important to us, such that they would inform programmatic decisions but not one of actually encouraging any type of racial profile..."
• "We are starting to collect that data now and asking for our experts in the areas of health equity, as well as in those other epidemiological groups saying what specific ones in Canada, in Ontario, in different parts of Ontario, should we be collecting, to inform our policy direction."
• Ontario’s Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Barbara Jaffe, added that they haven't yet started collecting such data as they are still preparing the questions to ask; she noted these questions will be voluntary to answer.

**Cases in Ontario:**

• 18,722 confirmed total number of COVID-19 cases; an increase of 412 cases since the last report  
  o 57% of the cases are women;  
  o 44% of the cases are 60 years and over;  
  o 61% of the cases are from the GTA;  
  o 16% of the cases are health care workers;  
• 71% of cases have recovered  
• 1,032 cases are in hospital, a decrease of 11 from yesterday; 219 are in intensive care and of those, 174 are on ventilator  
• Sadly, there’s been 1,429 deaths, an increase of 68 since the last report  
• Long Term Care facilities: 174 active outbreaks in long term care homes; 1,074 deaths in residents and 3 deaths among staff  
• Retirement homes: 68 have experienced an outbreak resulting in 150 deaths among residents  
• Lab Tests: 365,675 tests conducted; 12,961 in the last 24 hours; 8,790 are currently under investigation;

**Cases in Canada:**

• Total number of people tested: 970,586  
• Total number of cases: 62,458  
• Recovered: 26,291 (41%)  
• Average positivity: 4.1%  
• Deaths: 4,111  
• No new cases have been reported in the Yukon, New Brunswick or the Northwest Territories over the least two weeks.  
• Outbreaks in long-term care and seniors' homes are driving recent epidemic growth in Quebec, Ontario, and Nova Scotia, and are responsible for 82% of the deaths in Canada

**OPHA COVID-19 Key Developments May 5**

**Provincial Developments**

**Ontario Expands Virtual Mental Health Services During COVID-19:**

Recognizing the impact of COVID-19 on mental health, Premier Ford conveyed to Ontarians that "You are not alone. We will support you." Starting today, the provincial government expanded access to virtual and online mental health supports. These free internet-based programs include:

• Internet-Based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (iCBT):
o Clients can self-refer to programs through various service providers and be guided through their client journey to find the supports they need; and
o Online iCBT will be supported by therapists and available in English and French.
o These services include BounceBack telephone coaching and workbooks, and the Kids Help Phone for children and youth.

- Supports for frontline health care workers:
  - Online iCBT is available to frontline health care workers experiencing anxiety, burnout or post-traumatic stress disorder.
  - Those requiring intensive levels of care can be referred to virtual face-to-face care, weekly online peer discussion groups as well as access to confidential support from a clinician.

- Virtual mental health support services:
  - These services include BounceBack telephone coaching and workbooks, and the Kids Help Phone for children and youth.

The province has also established a Mental Health and Addictions COVID-19 Response Table, led by the Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence at Ontario Health, to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on access to public mental health and addictions services.

**Traveling to Cottage Country**

- The Premier will be speaking with county mayors tomorrow and will provide an update to Ontarians about access to cottages for the Victoria Day weekend.
- When challenged about this being unfair for those that don't have a second home, the Premier agreed and hinted that those without cottages will also "get to go outside" and he will have some good news to share later this week.
- Meanwhile, media reports indicate that Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, recently issued a memo to his local counterparts saying that while health officials should discourage the use of cottages, the province would not impose a legal ban.

**Electricity Rates:**

- The Premier hinted that he will be extending the hydro-subsidy for a "little bit" more and the announcement will come later in the week.

**Maternal-Neonatal COVID-19 General Guideline Released:**

Based on advice from the Maternal-Neonatal COVID-19 Task Force, the province released this new guideline to provide direction on key areas such as:

- Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by Providers and Patients during Labour & Delivery;
- Supporting People for Pregnant Patients during a Labour & Delivery Admission;
- Mother-Baby Dyad Care for Suspected/Confirmed COVID-19 Mothers;
- Care of Babies born to Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 Mothers; and
- Infant Testing

**Federal Developments**

**Trudeau pledges $252M for Canada's agriculture industry:**
In response to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture request for $2.6B in aid, the Prime Minister announced $252M as an "initial amount" aimed at helping farmers and food processors safely navigate the novel coronavirus pandemic. This new funding includes:

- $77 million for food processors, including meat packers, to retrofit their factories and increase their capacity to deal with a livestock backlog.
- These funds will be used to:
  - buy personal protective equipment for workers;
  - adapt to health protocols;
  - support other social distancing measures; and
  - expand/adapt the industry's processing capacity to increase the amount of Canadian products made domestically.
- $125 million to the AgriRecovery fund, a federal-provincial-territorial program aimed at helping farmers during disasters. The cattle industry has been pushing for this type of funding to help cover the cost of extended stays in feedlots; and
- $50 million for a surplus purchase program, similar to what's available for some farmers in the United States to redistribute surplus food to food banks.

Summary of Cases in Ontario and Canada

Cases in Ontario:

- Total of 18,310 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ontario; an increase of 387 from the day before.
  - Second day in a row that Ontario has recorded lower than 400 daily cases.
  - 57.5% of the total cases are female;
  - 44% of the total cases are 60 and over;
  - Over 60% of the total cases are from GTA;
  - 15.8% (or 2,892 cases) of the total cases are healthcare workers;
- 70% (12,779 cases) have been resolved;
- Currently 1043 people in hospital; increase of 59 from yesterday; 223 are in ICU; 166 are on ventilator;
- Sadly, we saw 1,361 deaths, which is an increase of 61 since last report;
- Long Term Care Homes: 175 active outbreaks; 1,003 deaths among residents; 3 deaths among staff;
- Retirement homes: 66 outbreaks, 147 deaths among residents;
- Lab testing: 352,714 tests completed in Ontario; 10,654 tests in last 24 hours; just over 6000 are currently under investigation.

Cases in Canada:

- Total number of tests: 940,643
- Total number of cases: 61,159
- Deaths: 3,915

Global Cases:

- USA has now crossed 70,000 deaths due to COVID-19.

We understand the challenges everyone is facing during this difficult time, and we will continue to communicate and work together to keep our communities safe.
Sent on behalf of the Grey Bruce Health Unit.

Please note that the privacy and security of email communication cannot be guaranteed. Please refrain from using email messages to send personal information.

Vision: A healthier future for all.
Mission: Working with Grey Bruce communities to protect and promote health
Core Values: Effective communication, Partnership, Respectful Relationships, Quality and Innovation, Integrity, Leadership

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