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: a.gaviller@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Here are links to some 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, information on the recovery phase, and a message from Dr. Arra Medical Officer of Health.

Please see this resource for workplaces to develop safety plans. It is a valuable resource to help your organization ensure all safety practices are in place, in relation to COVID-19.

1. Considerations for Celebrations
2. Guidance for Food Delivery Services
3. Sector Reopening - Personal Care Services (Updated)
4. Sector Reopening - Restaurants and Bars (Updated)
5. Sector Reopening – Shopping Malls (Updated)
6. Sector Reopening – Tour and Guide Services (Updated)
7. Sector Reopening – Photography, Film and Television (Updated)
If you have any questions, please call the Help Line At: 519-376-9420 ext 3000

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Twitter: GBPublicHealth
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OPHA COVID-19 Key Developments [June 12]

Provincial Developments

Public Health Trends:

- Premier Ford announced encouraging news around public health trends:
  - for the first time in months, Ontario reported less than 200 new cases, the lowest number since March 28th and hit a new record for testing this week of over 28,000 daily tests with the majority (around 98%) coming back negative;
  - the number of long-term care homes in outbreak continues to drop; and
  - 28 of Ontario's Public Health Units saw five or fewer new cases, and 17 saw no new cases at all.

Stage 2 of Reopening:

- In 24 regions across the province barber shops, hair salons, shopping malls are reopening; bar and restaurant patios in those regions are also opening with strict protocols.
- Premier Ford encouraged people in those communities to shop local and support their community. He indicated that more regions of Ontario will join them soon if these downward trends continue in the other 10 regions of the province still in stage 1.
- As the limit on social gatherings increases from 5 to 10 people, places of worship will also be able to reopen as of today; and as of next Thursday, long-term care, retirement homes, and other settings of congregate living will be able to accept visitors.
• In response to a media question about mandatory workplace reporting in the event of an outbreak, Premier Ford emphasized that it be the responsibility of workplaces to notify people within their organization and take appropriate steps to sanitize etc. in the event of an employee having COVID-19.

**Funding for Ontario's Student Nutrition Program:**

• The Ontario government is investing $1 million to improve access to healthy meals and snacks for school-age children and youth during the COVID-19 outbreak.
• As a result of the province-wide school closures, the Student Nutrition Program has had to find new ways to support families experiencing increased food insecurity.
• Ontario's Student Nutrition Program is delivered by 14 lead agencies and provides breakfast, snack and lunch programs in schools and other community locations across the province. The program supports learning and healthy development in children and youth by offering nutritious foods and teaching healthy eating habits.
• During the school year, over 800,000 children and youth participate in the 4,500 Student Nutrition Programs that operate in nearly 75 per cent of provincially-funded schools, 80 per cent of which are elementary schools.

**Supporting Agri-Food Workers:**

• The provincial government is investing $15 million into health and safety measures for farm operations. These additional steps will better protect workers on farms and in food processing facilities in the agri-food sector during the COVID-19 outbreak.
• Today's announcement more than triples the previous investment through this program by the governments of Canada and Ontario.

**Social Circles:**

• Premier Ford and Deputy Premier and Health Minister Elliott announced that, effective immediately, the public health guidelines will be changing to introduce social circles of up to ten people.
• A social circle is a group of people (family and friends) that you can interact with without the need for physical distancing.
  o The province has developed a practical step-by-step guide to help Ontarians as they safely develop and join a social circle. Minister Elliott explained the five steps needed to build a safe social circle:

1. Start with your current circle: the people you live with or regularly come into your household.
2. If the current circle is under ten people, you can add members from outside the household, such as grandparents of other families with similarly aged children
3. Get agreement from everyone that they will join the circle.
4. Keep your social circle safe and maintain physical distancing with anyone outside of it.
5. Be true to your circle, no one should be part of more than one circle.

• Social circles will help people struggling with social isolation, provide more childcare options, and enable Ontarians to enjoy close contact with other members of their circle such as enjoying dinner together.
• The rules around social circles are different than the recent news permitting social gatherings of up to ten people (social gatherings can be with any 10 people but with the protocols of physical distancing guidelines in effect).
• Social circles can also help to track cases and control the spread; if someone develops COVID-19, public health officials would first look at those within the social circle.
• In response to a media question about enforcement, Premier Ford said that he would be relying on Ontarians to do the right thing noting "there will not be any social circle police knocking on the door."

**Mandatory Masks:**
• In response to media questions about varying requirements for mask usage in different parts of the province, Dr. Williams explained the reason behind these decisions by local Medical Officers of Health. For example, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health is calling for mandatory face masks in commercial settings while Waterloo Public Health is not.
• Dr. Williams provided clarity around the guidelines being offered for commercial settings (or any gathering) in that the recommendations state that people must physically distance and wear facial masks if they are going to be in a setting where they will not be able to maintain six feet of distance.
• In some stores and facilities they might have to put different protocols in place depending on the space and what is possible in that space (for example we have seen plexiglass screens put up, line markings to direct customer flow, requirements for face masks in some places, etc.)
• In Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, the Medical Officer of Health has noticed low compliance to the guidelines in commercial settings and so the ask has been made to make the protocols mandatory to support store owners.

**Donation of Household Items:**

• A reporter asked about those looking to donate their household items as they do spring cleaning; Dr. Williams answered that those wishing to donate should check with the recipient organization around their protocols, items accepted, and requirements for sanitization etc.

**Federal Developments**

**Armed Forces in Long-Term Care Facilities:**

• The federal government has committed to extending the deployment of armed forces in long-term care facilities to June 26th in Ontario and Quebec.
• Due to improvements in long-term care facilities in Quebec, the federal government will be progressively replacing military officers working with trained, paid, Red Cross workers.

**Restarting the Economy:**

• The Prime Minister emphasised the need for a coordinated country-wide plan in that Canada must learn from the lessons of other countries that are facing resurgences of COVID-19.
• $14 Billion is being put towards a Safe Restart Agreement and discussions are ongoing with the provinces on what this plan could look like. While the federal government wants to target the funds for health care, childcare, the elderly, ten paid sick leave for workers and municipal transit and community programs, some provinces are looking for greater federal support and/or flexibility to set their own priorities.

**Systemic Racism:**

• Prime Minister Trudeau spoke of videos circulating online showing an RCMP officer tackle First Nations Chief Allan Adam during an arrest and commented that changes are needed urgently.
• The Prime Minister emphasized that an independent investigation should be carried out and must be transparent in order to deliver the answers Canadians are looking for.
• He noted that all leaders on his recent call with his provincial and territorial counterparts were united in condemning racism and discussed practical steps that can be taken quickly, including:
  o the adoption of body cameras;
  o reforms so that all Canadians are properly served by the institutions designed to protect them; and
  o the inclusion of the women and men who serve in being part of the solution.
• When asked about mandating the collection and release of disaggregate police-use-of-force data in an effort to better understand systemic racism, Prime Minister Trudeau said that significant steps are being taken but there’s a need to do much more.
Travel:

- Along with requiring airline staff and travellers to wear masks, the federal government is mandating temperature screening for air passengers through a phased approach:
  - first for those travelling to Canada
  - next for those travelling from Canada
  - finally, for those travelling within Canada
  - A passenger who has a fever will not be permitted to board a flight.
  - Officers working in security areas of airports will also be required to have their temperature checked.
- When asked about earlier references of temperature checks being ineffective, the Prime Minister noted that such checks are not highly effective in detecting COVID-19 in travellers; however, they can be a good supplementary measure in detecting symptoms of COVID-19 while things are opening up and help discourage people who are sick from travelling (as part of a larger suite of measures).

Philippine Canadian Community:

- Prime Minister Trudeau thanked the many members of the Philippine Canadian community who have been stepping up to help through various exemplary community initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- During this Philippine heritage month, the Prime Minister called on Canadians to reflect on the challenges faced by this community as a result of discrimination, which has also gotten worse throughout the pandemic; "Now more than ever we need to stand up against discrimination and injustice in all its forms".

Discrimination in Blood Donations:

- When asked about promises to end the blood donation ban from men-who-have-sex-with men and trans-women, the Prime Minister answered that funding was given to Canadian Blood Services to do the research needed and make changes to their protocols. Results and announcements are expected soon.

Summary of Cases in Ontario and Canada

Cases in Ontario:

- Total number of cases: 31,726 cases; an increase of 182 cases (+0.6%) since the last report
- Case demographics:
  - 54.2% are female
  - 45% are male
  - 0.8% did not specify male or female
  - 37.4% are 60 years or older
- Resolved: 26,187 (82.5%)
- Deaths: sadly, 2,498 people have died (11 deaths reported today)
- Hospitalized: 527 people are hospitalized; 114 are in intensive care and of those, 84 are on a ventilator
- Long-term care homes: 63 active outbreaks; 1,776 deaths among residents and seven among staff
- Lab testing: 953,015 tests completed; 28,335 tests completed in the last 24 hours; 18,512 are currently under investigation
- Positivity rate 1.6%

Cases in Canada:

- Total number of cases: 97,530; an increase of 405 cases
- Recovered: 57,658
- Deaths: 7,994
- People tested: 2,028,496 (4.5% positivity)
OPHA COVID-19 Key Developments June 15

Provincial Developments:

Moving More Regions into Stage 2 on Friday:

- Based on public health advice, Premier Ford announced that the following public health regions are now permitted to move into Stage 2 starting this Friday, June 19th:
  o Durham Region Health Department;
  o Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit;
  o Halton Region Health Department;
  o Hamilton Public Health Services;
  o Lambton Health Unit;
  o Niagara Region Public Health Department; and
  o York Region Public Health Services.
- These regions are in addition to the 24 public health regions that entered Stage 2 on June 12th.
- Before opening, business owners will need to review the workplace safety guidelines and follow public health advice.
- The following regions will remain under Stage 1:
  o Peel Public Health;
  o Toronto Public Health; and
  o Windsor-Essex County Health Unit.
- The Premier indicated that it would be ideal to open these last three regions by June 26th, but warned that it would depend on case numbers; he asked people living in these three regions to be patient.

Collecting Race, Income, Language and Household Based COVID-19 Data:

- In response to requests by community leaders and public health experts, the Ontario government is proposing a regulatory change to make the reporting of data on race, income, language and household size for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 mandatory.
- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 infection will be asked additional questions about their race, income, languages spoken, and household size.
- Individuals can choose not to answer any or all of these questions and their privacy will be protected as it is for all information collected on other diseases.
- To help implement this data collection, the province is engaging with health equity stakeholders and experts, including the Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate and Indigenous partners.
- Anonymized data will be made available to recognized researchers through the Ontario Health Data Platform with the protection of individuals' privacy being made a priority.

Recognizing that some Ontarians, including racialized individuals and those with lower incomes may be at greater risk of COVID-19 infection, Minister Elliott noted, "collecting this data will help guide decisions as work continues to stop the spread of the virus and protect some of our most vulnerable people."

Helping Local Business to Test and Certify Medical-Grade PPE:
• Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Minister Fedeli announced that Ontario is providing $526,200 to CSA Group Testing & Certification Inc. from the Ontario Together Fund to increase the capacity for testing and certifying personal protective equipment (PPE).
• CSA Group Testing & Certification Inc., a subsidiary of the Canadian Standards Association, tests, inspects and certifies products to ensure they are in compliance with safety, environmental and operating performance standards.
• There is currently no domestic provider of comprehensive testing and certification for medical grade PPE.

**Expanding Services for Young Victims of Sex Trafficking:**

The Ontario Government is investing up to $46 million over the next five years to increase community-based and Indigenous-specific supports for child and youth victims of sex trafficking. Funding will be available to partners and agencies and focus on areas such as:

• Trauma-informed programming developed and delivered by survivor-led organizations;
• Dedicated services for victims under age 18, including residential placements and treatment, peer mentoring, as well as education and employment training programs;
• Culturally-appropriate, Indigenous-designed supports for First Nations, Inuit and Métis victims, families and communities;
• Targeted supports for sexually exploited boys, individuals with developmental disabilities, LGBTQ2S individuals, and racialized and newcomer populations; and
• Specialized programs for children and youth involved in or transitioning out of child welfare or the youth justice system.

**Additional Learning Materials for Students and Teachers:**

• The Ontario government, in partnership with Science North and the Ontario Science Centre, is creating additional educational content for students and teachers.
• The province is providing up to $1.5 million to create made-in-Ontario videos and resources (in both English and French) to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning which will include:
  o Professional development videos for educators;
  o Virtual and at-home hands-on STEM activities for students; and
  o Activities and student worksheets which can be printed and distributed through school boards.

**Restrictions Eased on Weddings and Funerals:**

• As of last Friday, the Ontario government extended the number of people allowed to attend an indoor wedding or funeral ceremony to a maximum of 30 per cent capacity of the ceremony venue.
• Wedding and funeral ceremonies taking place outdoors will be limited to 50 attendees while only 10 people can attend an indoor or outdoor wedding or funeral reception.
• Whether being held indoors or outdoors, those attending must follow proper health and safety advice, including practising physical distancing from people who are not from the same household or their established 10-person social circle.

**Federal Developments**

**Possible extension of Canadian Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB):**

• Prime Minister Trudeau announced today that they’re "working on a solution to extend the benefit for people who can’t return to work yet" and promised that he will have more details to share later this week.
Surplus Food Rescue Program:

- The Prime Minister announced this new program which will help get food products that farmers and fishers can't sell (like potatoes, poultry, sea foods) to communities that need them, including northern territories.
- Farmers will get to sell their food, and food will reach the plates of those who need it.
- Applications for this program opened today.

Canada's Global Contributions:

- The Prime Minister announced that in response to the United Nation's request, Canada agreed to air-lift medical and humanitarian supplies urgently needed to help those that are vulnerable in different parts of the world.
- As one of thirteen founding members, Canada has helped to launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence and worked with the Quebec government to set up in Montreal a centre of expertise, one of the partnership's two global hubs.

Cases in Ontario and Canada

Cases and Trends in Ontario:

Dr. Williams and Dr. Yaffe conveyed the following information today about COVID-19 trends in Ontario:

- The number of new cases has remained relatively low in the last few days except for a small increase on Saturday.
- Many health units have been reporting either no new daily cases or a small number.
- Of today's 181 new cases, 28 of 34 health units are reporting 5 or fewer cases with 18 health units reporting no new cases at all.
- More Ontarians are recovering than the number of new cases reported.
- The number of deaths and people being admitted to hospitals also continues to decline.
- Outbreaks in institutions are declining.
- Testing has increased and percent positivity has decreased.

Cases and Testing in Ontario:

- Total cases in Ontario - 32,370; 181 new cases since yesterday;
- Total Resolved - 27,213 (84.1%);
- Total Tests Completed - 1,025,500; 21,751 tests done since the last report and 18,258 under investigation
- Total Deaths - 2,527; an increase of 8 deaths since yesterday;
- Total Hospitalized - 419; In ICU - 104; On a ventilator - 69;
- Long Term Care Homes in outbreak - 69; Resolved outbreaks - 236; Total cases in residents - 5,380;
- Confirmed active cases of positive residents - 490; Confirmed active cases of positive staff - 476;
- Resident Deaths in LTC homes - 1,792; Staff deaths - 7.

Cases in Canada:

- Total Cases - 98,787; New cases since yesterday - 377;
- Total Recovered Cases - 60,272 (61%);
- Total Deaths - 8,416 (8%);
- People tested per million - 57,271;
- Percent Positive - 4.3%.
Dr. Ian Arra
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
Grey Bruce Health Unit
101 17th Street East
Owen Sound ON N4K 0A5
Phone: (519)376-9420, Ext. 1241 Fax: (519)376-0605
I.Arra@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca
www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

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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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