As part of our ongoing 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

Monday, June 29, 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. If you have any questions, please call the Help Line At: 519-376-9420 ext 3000

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. Public Health Interventions to Support Safe Re-Opening
2. Nail Salons Checklist
3. Hair Salons/Barber Shops Checklist
4. Tattoos/Piercings Checklist
5. Considerations for Postal and Delivery Workers (updated)
6. FAQ for Business Operations and Reopening (updated)
7. Screening in Public Settings (updated)
8. Considerations for Work Clothes and Uniforms (updated)
9. COVID-19 and Safe Beach Use (updated)
10. GBHU Daily Situation Report
11. OPHA COVID-19 Summary of Key Developments for June 24 – 26th 2020 (below Social Media links)
If you have any questions, please call the Help Line At: 519-376-9420 ext 3000

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 June 26

Provincial Developments

Trends in COVID-19 Cases and Testing:

- While highlighting some of the current positive trends related to COVID-19 cases and testing in Ontario, Premier Ford noted that:
  - the number of hospitalizations admissions in intensive care is declining;
  - most public health units across the province are reporting five cases or less; and
  - yesterday, Ontario processed over 30,000 tests, resulting in only 111 new cases, the lowest number of new cases since the end of March.

Making Masks Mandatory:

- The media asked the Premier about an outbreak in a nail salon in Kingston. With 18 people being tested positive for COVID-19 and around 500 people having come in contact with that salon since then, the Premier was asked if he had second thoughts on reopening. The Premier answered "What it shows is that the system is working. Because of how quickly we contacted and traced the 500 people. But it goes back to what we keep saying... make sure that we wear a facemask, constantly wash our hands and when possible, make sure in groups that we really stick to the 10 people."
- In responding to questions about making it mandatory for Ontarians to wear masks in certain settings, the Premier said that as the province would be unable to enforce such a requirement it will not be implementing this measure.
- He reiterated the fact that local public health officials have the ability to implement their own local policies.
- Meanwhile, the Mayor of Kingston, which is currently dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak, announced that masks will now be mandatory in indoor settings. The local medical officer of health implemented this new rule today.

Moving to Stage 3:

- When asked about moving to Stage 3, the Premier answered that this issue was discussed with his Cabinet colleagues and it was concluded that the government will take a cautious and staged approach. Some parts of the province may move to this stage before others as was done under Stage 2.
**Ontario Providing Additional Support for Seniors:**

- Premier Ford announced that the Ontario government is providing up to $4 million for the Seniors Community Grant Program, a significant increase over last year. This funding, which will support projects, ranging from $1,000 to $100,000, that:
  - help older individuals and couples receive the support they need in their community;
  - ensure seniors are less at risk for neglect, abuse and fraud, and that their rights and dignity are protected;
  - ensure more older adults are connected and engaged, reducing social isolation; and
  - provide more opportunities for older adults in employment and volunteering, achieving greater financial security and engagement within the community.
- The application period for the Seniors Community Grant Program will close on August 7, 2020. Interested unincorporated and incorporated not-for-profit organizations, local services boards, or Indigenous groups should submit their applications to Transfer Payment Ontario (formerly Grants Ontario) online at Ontario.ca/GetFunding.

**Ontario Provides Stable Electricity Pricing for Industrial and Commercial Companies:**

- The Ontario government is helping large industrial and commercial companies return to full levels of operation without the fear of electricity costs spiking by providing more stable electricity pricing for the next two years.
- Effective immediately, companies that participate in the Industrial Conservation Initiative will not be required to reduce their electricity usage during peak hours, as the proportion of Global Adjustment (GA) charges for these companies will be frozen.

**Federal Developments**

**Discussions with Provinces on PPE and Border Closures:**

- Prime Minister Trudeau spoke about his weekly meeting with the provinces and his government’s commitment to provide $14 billion to support daycare, the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other urgent needs.
- Trudeau noted that Canada is almost completely self-sufficient now when it comes to PPE.
- He also mentioned that premiers saw the need to maintain restrictions at the border as the summer begins since COVID-19 is still a threat to Canadians’ health.

**Support from the Canadian Armed Forces and Red Cross in Long-Term Care:**

- In the Prime Minister’s update on the role of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAA) in long-term care, he indicated that they are still active in one facility in Ontario; it is anticipated that they will be ready to leave in the coming days once the situation is stable.
- The Canadian Red Cross will help with the transfer from the military to civilian staff in the 47 long-term care homes where the CAF personal were deployed.
- The Red Cross was given $100M by the Canadian government a few weeks ago to enable them to send over 900 staff into long-term care homes.
- The first group of 150 people will be deployed by July 6th, and 750 people will be hired by July the 29th.

**Summary of Cases and Trends**

**Cases and Trends in Ontario:**

- Total number of cases: 34,316 cases; an increase of 111 cases since the last report yesterday
- Resolved: 29,754 (86.7%); 226 new cases resolved since the last report
Deaths: sadly, 2,644 people have died (7.7%);
Hospitalized: 256 people are hospitalized; 61 are in intensive care and of those, 41 are on a ventilator
Long-term care homes: 5,445 confirmed cases in residents; 2,268 confirmed cases in staff; 1,692 deaths among residents and five among staff
Lab testing: 1,294,314; Total tests completed in the previous day 30,780; Tests currently under investigation 27,344

Cases in Canada (June 25th, 7pm)

- Total number of cases: 102,622; an increase of 380 new cases
- Recovered: 65,425 (64%)
- Deaths: 8,504 (8.29%)
- People tested: 68,061 people tested per million
- Percent positivity: 3.7%

OPHA COVID-19 Key Developments June 25

Provincial Developments

Message of Caution from Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health:

- Dr. David Williams spoke today about the importance of being cautious and signalled his concern over people not keeping up with physical distancing as seen in images of crowded beaches over the weekend. "It’s not open up and be casual, it’s open up and be careful."
- He noted that Ontario has seen a spike in cases among those 20 to 39 years old and is concerned that people in this age group are getting casual about protecting themselves. Dr. Williams said he has received anecdotal reports from physicians about younger patients "who had a relatively insignificant case of COVID-19 later on are [returning and] having some affects and issues."
- When asked by the media about making masks mandatory, Dr. Williams said he would leave that to the discretion of municipalities and local authorities if they conclude that this is needed in their region.

Ontario Helping Youth Pursue New Opportunities:

Premier Ford announced that the Ontario government is investing more than $13 million in the 2020 Youth Opportunities Fund to support community- driven and youth-led projects to improve the well-being of children, youth, and families facing economic and social barriers.

- This fund will provide financial support to 43 community organizations that will benefit youth aged 12 to 25, and their families. Examples of projects receiving funding this year include:
  - **Black Moms Connection**: focusing on economic empowerment for Black mothers across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).
  - **Immigrants francophones d'Afrique pour l'intégration et le développement (IFAPID)**: to support newcomers from Francophone African nations to navigate financial systems in Canada.
  - **Earthling Art Collective**: to provide development and mentorship opportunities for youth leaving care and the justice system in Thunder Bay.
  - **Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment & Training**: to help Indigenous youth in the GTA access employment and training opportunities in the skilled trades.

Defunding the Police:
• When asked by the media about defunding the police, the Premier once again stressed that it would be a "massive, massive error", as when people call 911 they expect police to be there. He noted that eliminating $100 million from the Toronto Police budget would mean cutting 100 police officers. Instead he suggested that there should be better training for the police to deal with mental health calls.

**Canada-US Border Closure:**

• When asked about the Canada-US border closure, the Premier said that Ontario is not ready to re-open the border with the United States, especially given the increase in cases in there.

**Federal Developments**

**Support for Students:**

• Prime Minister Trudeau provided more details on the $9B investment he announced in April to support students during COVID-19. The funding will be flowed through the Canada Student Service Grant program which:
  o will provide post-secondary students and recent graduates with one-time payments of up to $5,000 for volunteering in pandemic-related programs, depending on the number of hours worked; for every 100 hours spent, a student will receive $1,000; and
  o can be used to cover for expenses.
  o The federal government is directing those interested to a new "I want to help" information portal where they can connect with COVID-19 focused charities, get more information about who’s eligible for the grants, the number of hours needed to qualify; how to apply and how applications will be assessed.
  o The Prime Minister also promised to create 10,000 new job placements (on top of the 70,000 already created) under the Canada Summer Jobs program, at a cost of $60 million.
  o The Prime Minister also offered more details on some of the other initiatives being supported, including spending:
    • $40 million to create 5,000 internships for post-secondary students with the innovation-focused NGO Mitacs to offer placements in sectors such as medicine and law;
    • $266 million to create 20,000 job placements for post-secondary students in high-demand sectors through the Student Work Placement Program;
    • $40 million on a wage subsidy that connects youth with small businesses and charities through the Digital Skills for Youth and the Computer for Schools Plus programs; and
    • $187 million to support job placements through the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy in high-demand sectors.

**Reaction to CIHI Long-Term Care Report:**

• In response to a report released today by the Canadian Institute for Health Research showing Canada had double the rate of deaths in long term care facilities from COVID-19 than other OECD countries, Prime Minister Trudeau noted that "our current system of supporting seniors across this country has not worked."
• Given this is an area of provincial responsibility, he remarked that "[they] have failed to support our seniors" and indicated his interest in working with the provinces to address this issue and explore whether national standards are needed.

**First Ministers Statement on Anti-Racism:**

• Following their weekly meeting, Canada's Prime Minister, premiers and territorial leaders issued a statement on anti-racism, attached below, which condemns all forms of racism, discrimination, intolerance, and bigotry and commits these first ministers to exercising leadership and changing their policies, initiatives, and practices to best support communities and address the root causes of inequalities.
Cases and Testing in Ontario and Canada

Cases in Ontario:

- Total number of cases: 34,205 cases; an increase of 189 cases since the last report yesterday
- Resolved: 29,528 (86.3%); 192 new cases resolved since the last report
- Deaths: sadly, 2,641 people have died;
- Hospitalized: 270 people are hospitalized; 69 are in intensive care and of those, 47 are on a ventilator
- Long-term care homes: 5,463 confirmed cases in residents; 2,258 confirmed cases in staff; 1,689 deaths among residents and five among staff
- Lab testing: 1,263,534; Total tests completed in the previous day 27,511; Tests currently under investigation tests 24,607

Cases in Canada: (as of June 25, 2020, 7 pm)

- Total number of cases: 102,622; an increase of 380 new cases
- Recovered: 65,425 (64%)
- Deaths: 8,504 (8.30%)
- People tested: 68,061 people tested per million
- Percent positivity: 3.7%

OPHA COVID-19 Key Developments June 24

Ontario Extends Declaration of Emergency to July 15:

- In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government once again extended the provincial Declaration of Emergency under s.7.0.7 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to July 15, 2020. This extension was approved earlier today by the Ontario legislature. The Premier indicated that he hoped this would be the last extension.

Ontario Takes Immediate Action to Stop COVID-19 Outbreaks in Windsor-Essex:

- The Premier announced that most of Windsor-Essex except for Leamington and Kingsville municipalities, will move into Stage 2 of reopening, effective June 25th.
- Further to consultation with Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and local public health officials, the Ontario government is implementing a three-point plan to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 on farms and throughout the community. The plan's three points include:

1. Ongoing and expanded on-site testing:

- Ontario is continuing to facilitate on-site testing at agri-food businesses and community assessment centres.
- About 350 asymptomatic workers have been tested at their work site since on-site testing was launched this past weekend and officials will be engaging with employers to schedule more mobile testing on farms.

2. Access to Employment Benefits and Supports:

- Temporary foreign workers are entitled to the same benefits and protections as any other worker in Ontario.
- That includes workers' compensation benefits administered by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board and the protections afforded by the Employment Standards Act.
- Under Ontario's new infectious disease emergency leave provisions, a worker's job is protected while they take unpaid leave due to COVID-19.
In certain cases, temporary foreign workers may also be eligible to apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit; to access the federal benefit, workers must have earned $5,000 in the last 12 months or in the previous year.

3. New Public Health Guidance

- The Chief Medical Officer of Health will issue new public health guidance allowing positive asymptomatic workers to continue working as long as they follow the public health measures in their workplace to minimize the risk of transmission to others.

**Ontario Investing to Help Franco-Ontarian Communities Grow and Support Recovery:**

- Ontario is launching the 2020-21 edition of the two-stream, application-based, Francophone Community Grants Program:
  - Under the Economic Development stream, funding will help francophone entrepreneurs, businesses and not-for-profit organizations improve front-line services and better serve their French-speaking clients and partners.
  - Under the Cultural and Community stream, investments will be made in local cultural and community initiatives to protect and promote the French language and culture.
- The Program supports projects which strengthen the capacity of organizations to:
  - provide products and services in French;
  - promote the recruitment and training of bilingual staff; or
  - provide opportunities to celebrate and foster understanding of Ontario’s Francophonie.

We will continue to monitor and share with you the federal and provincial developments related to COVID-19 and other areas as long as members find this information useful. Stay well!

Pegeen and Deva

**Cases and Testing in Ontario and Canada**

**Cases in Ontario:**

- Total number of cases: 34,016 cases; an increase of 163 cases since the last report yesterday
- Resolved: 29,336; 229 new cases resolved since the last report
- Deaths: sadly, 2,631 people have died;
- Hospitalized: 278 people are hospitalized; 73 are in intensive care and of those, 48 are on a ventilator
- Long-term care homes: 5,427 confirmed cases in residents; 2,244 confirmed cases in staff; 1,683 deaths among residents and six among staff
- Lab testing: 1,236,023; Total tests completed in the previous day 23,207; Tests currently under investigation tests 21,398

**Cases in Canada (June 23, 7pm)**

- Total number of cases: 101,963; an increase of 326 new cases
- Recovered: 64,704 (63%)
- Deaths: 8,454 (8.29%)
- People tested: 66,053 people tested per million
- Percent positivity: 3.8%
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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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