



Board of Health Meeting April 22, 2021

Summary

ONTARIO HEALTH TEAMS AND THE ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS

Ontario Health Teams are groups of providers and organizations that are clinically and fiscally accountable for delivering a full and coordinated continuum of care to a defined geographic population.

- Ontario Health Teams are a new model of integrated care delivery that will enable patients, families, communities, providers and system leaders to work together, innovate, and build on what is best in Ontario's health care system.
- Through this model, groups of providers will work together as a team to deliver a full and coordinated continuum of care for people, *even if they're not in the same organization or physical location*.
- As a team, they will work to achieve common goals related to improved health outcomes, patient and provider experience, and value. (MOH triple aim)
- The goal is to provide better, more integrated care.

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark region has two Ontario Health Teams (OHT), and the Public Health Unit is an affiliated partner on each one providing a health promotion and prevention perspective to the work of each OHT. A weekly meeting with members of both OHT supports a collaborative vaccine program in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark with health care and community partners.

- The Lanark, Leeds, Grenville OHT includes most of the Health Unit region and is an approved OHT since 2020.
- The Four Rivers OHT includes North Grenville, and the primary care providers in Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills along with Arnprior and Ottawa West including the Queensway Carleton Hospital. This OHT is applying to the Ministry of Health to be an approved OHT in 2021.

The Board discussed the importance of the work of municipalities, for example, the Community Safety and Well-Being initiatives, the Municipal Drug Strategies, recreation and other programs, in contributing to healthy communities. This is a natural connection to the work of the Ontario Health Teams.

COVID-19 UPDATE

- The first week in April saw a significant increase in new COVID-19 infections, particularly in areas close to Ottawa. For the rest of April, overall, the number of new infections has gradually been decreasing with occasional increases linked to specific outbreaks in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark.
- The new infections are occurring in all ages, including children and teens. The majority are in the 20 to 59 age group – working age.
- Over half of all new infections (57%) are caused by a COVID-19 Variant of Concern (VOC). The VOC's are more easily spread with close contact, and cause more severe disease, including requiring hospitalization, and death.
- About half of the new infections are caused by close contact with family or friends, and 20% through outbreaks in workplaces or businesses. For the first time, we have about one third of new infections where the person cannot identify a specific exposure to someone with COVID-19. This signifies that adhering to public health precautions when away from home - keeping the 2 metre distance and wearing a well fitted face mask - is critical, and to also avoid any social gatherings.
- In April, five media notices were issued to inform the public of possible exposure to COVID-19 at retail and food and beverage premises. This is done when we cannot identify all the people who might have been exposed to COVID-19 in a public place.
- Several workplaces have had one person or more with COVID-19. So far the public health measures in place have prevented further spread in most workplaces. All employees screening for symptoms before coming to work, staying home, and going for testing will decrease the number of infections coming into workplaces.
- The provincial “Shut Down” and “Stay at Home” Orders have been posted on the Health Unit Website. Our key message has been to limit any social gathering outside the household.

Vaccine Program

The Health Unit Vaccine Program continues to follow the provincial direction on priority groups for Pfizer and Moderna vaccine. As of Monday, April 20, 32,264 people in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The fixed site vaccine clinics are going well in Kemptville, Almonte, Brockville and Smiths Falls providing vaccine to people age 60+, health care workers, and people with the highest and very high risk health conditions. Community paramedics are providing vaccine to eligible people who cannot leave their homes. The mobile clinic teams are completing second doses in long-term care and retirement homes, first doses for residents and staff in group homes and other congregate settings, and community pop up clinics – the first of which was held in Westport on April 20 and the next is planned for April 27 in Elgin. Once there is enough vaccine, essential workers who cannot work from home will be able to receive vaccine.

Many pharmacies in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark have now received AstraZeneca for people age 40+. The pharmacy program is being managed by the province, and people register for appointments through the pharmacy booking system.

The Public Health Unit is working closely with several primary care teams to provide AstraZeneca vaccine to individuals in their practice with a focus on people age 40+ with chronic health conditions that would put them at increased risk of serious COVID-19 infection.

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Call Centre is using new technology to provide local support for vaccine booking with support from both Lanark County and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. People in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark can also register directly for vaccine appointments at the fixed sites through the provincial booking system.

An eligibility tool is available on the Website with details of who is eligible for vaccine and how to book an appointment at <https://healthunit.org/covid-19-vaccine/>.