

Board of Health Meeting February 25, 2021

Summary

COVID-19 UPDATE

Provincial COVID-19 Response Framework

On February 16, 2021, the provincial government announced revisions to the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#). The Framework categorizes public health unit regions into one of five zones depending on the level of COVID-19 infection in the community. Each of the Framework Categories includes the types of measures put in place for businesses and organizations, specific sectors, institutions and other settings ([see page 9 in the Framework document](#)).

The new requirements added to the Framework include:

1. Posting clear and visible signage at all business entrances, with detailed [COVID-19 screening questions](#) to facilitate passive screening of patrons.
2. Active symptom screening of employees; the tool can be accessed [online](#) or downloaded ([PDF](#)) from the Ontario government website.
3. Preparation of a [safety plan](#) for organizations and businesses that is available upon request.

On February 16, 2021, the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit region was moved into the Green/Prevent level. Information was sent to all businesses and resources were developed and posted on the Health Unit Website. Thank you to everyone who has followed public health precautions and been COVID-SMART to get us to this point.

COVID-19 Response

The Board of Health discussed how municipalities could support the important role of communications in the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark COVID-19 Response by:

- Providing a link to the COVID-19 section of the Health Unit Website on municipal Websites;
- Re-tweeting Health Unit tweets and liking Facebook posts;
- Sharing key public health messaging with residents throughout municipalities;
- Including information about the vaccine roll-out with municipal mail-outs and newsletters.

Vaccine Program

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, along with many community partners, are pleased to start providing COVID-19 vaccine at community clinics in Kemptville, Almonte, Brockville and Smiths Falls. All appointments are booked ahead of time and there are no walk-ins. Once there is sufficient supply of vaccine, pop-up vaccine clinics will be held in communities around Leeds, Grenville and Lanark. See the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark [COVID-19 Distribution and Administration Roll Out Plan](#) based on the provincial framework, and availability of vaccine. Details of who is eligible for vaccine, and when, will be sent to municipalities and will be posted on the Website at <https://healthunit.org/covid-19-vaccine/>.

Programs and Services

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit has become aware of what appears to be a new Fentanyl powder in both Brockville and Smiths Falls. The Health Unit has received multiple overdose reports, including fatalities, related to the use of yellow and purple Fentanyl powders. The substances appear to be highly toxic with very small amounts resulting in overdoses. The Health Unit, along with community partners, believe that these substances may also contain other drugs such as benzodiazepines (e.g. Xanax, etc.) for which the overdose reversal drug, Naloxone, is not effective. Calling 911 in the event of an overdose continues to be the most important step to saving someone's life. Harm reduction supplies (single use equipment, naloxone), and further access to services and referrals will continue to be offered throughout Leeds, Grenville and Lanark during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit the Health Unit website for more information www.healthunit.org.