

## Board of Health Meeting July 22, 2021

### Summary

#### COVID-19 UPDATE

- The number of new infections is low throughout the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark area with no new COVID-19 infections since July 14. This reflects the broad adherence to public health precautions and provincial regulations, and the high level of vaccine uptake by our population.
- The Delta variant is now dominant among new infections in Ontario. The Delta variant is causing severe disease among younger adults as well as older ones who aren't immunized, with the need for hospitalization and respirator support. A significant number of people have long-term complications of the infection.
- Fall is usually a time of increases in all respiratory infection – more people are indoors and the drier air leads to an increased risk of transmission of viruses. Given how easily the Delta variant can be spread with close contact it is critical that people receive two doses of the vaccine now for protection in the fall and beyond.
- A key message is that it is important to [continue to follow precautions](#) if you have one or even two vaccine doses. We need to keep protecting each other until we are all fully vaccinated.
  - Masks are still required in indoor spaces and outdoors in public events where you can't maintain a 2 m distance from others.
  - Physical distancing is required indoors at a business or service that is open to the public.
  - People who are fully immunized can make decisions about social interactions with others without a mask and closer than 2 m considering the risk and with mutual consent. See <https://healthunit.org/health-information/covid-19/gatherings-social-circles/>

## VACCINE UPDATE

- 87% of LGL residents 12+ have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 71% have received both doses. The percent with second doses is increasing quickly with an 11% increase from the previous week. We have been at or near the top of health units in the province for several weeks for the percent of the population 12 + with first doses and second doses.
- Check out our [vaccination dashboard](#) which is updated every Tuesday. We show the percentages of first and second doses for each age group on the dashboard.
- The 12 to 17 age group now has 71% with one dose and 25% with two doses. It is critical that youth receive their first dose now so they have time to get their second dose 14 days before school starts.
- Given children under age 12 cannot receive the vaccine, it is important that adults around them receive the vaccine to give them protection from the virus.
- Our Pfizer vaccine allocations will increase in July, and we continue to have a supply of Moderna. This will help us provide more opportunities for residents to get first and second vaccinations of both Pfizer and Moderna.
- All clinics now have room for both booked appointments and walks-ins. The clinic dates, times and locations are listed on our website, and our social media posts each day identify the clinics that are open for walk-ins. This combination is working very well and meets the varying needs of the community. An appointment can be booked through the [Leeds, Grenville and Lanark online booking portal](#) or by calling the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Call Centre at 1-844-369-1234
- As of August 31, 2021, the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit and partners will be transitioning to a mobile vaccine clinic program. The current Fixed Site Vaccine Clinics in Almonte, Smiths Falls, Kemptville and Brockville will become part of the mobile program rather than operating on a regular weekly schedule, and some will move to other locations. These clinics have been supported by a number of partners and have provided thousands of vaccinations to residents of LGL as well as other surrounding areas.
- Our staff will be reaching out to those with vaccine appointments booked in September and October to reschedule their appointment in July or August.
- For August, we are also working on a targeted strategy to provide vaccinations at interested LGL workplaces, community organizations, as well as to other groups like sports teams. Interested workplaces and organizations can get in touch with us at [contact@healthunit.org](mailto:contact@healthunit.org).
- We are also working with primary care to identify how we can work together to continue to provide vaccine through the fall.

- Pharmacies have both Moderna and Pfizer and some have AstraZeneca for those who received it as a first dose. Check a [participating pharmacy](#) .

## **HEALTH UNIT RECOVERY PLAN**

Dr. Stewart advised that while management and staff are still working very hard on the vaccination program and have been following up on cases and contacts, we recognize that we also need to think about when we are not so heavily involved in COVID-19. This will be the recovery phase of the COVID-19 response and we will move into more emphasis on the Ontario Public Health Programs and Services. We are starting to think about the response and recovery phase and the Management Team has met to start planning and will lead the process.

Planning will involve all employees, the Board of Health, and our partners with a focus on restoration, reconstruction and reimagining. We are emphasizing the reimagining part of it as we have done things differently during COVID-19, for example, we have strengthened our partnerships with municipalities. How do we imagine the public health programs and services that take advantage of these changes? This is exciting and we are not just going back to the way we were doing things – it is the new normal.