

Board of Health Meeting March 25, 2021

Summary

MINISTRY OF HEALTH ONE-TIME FINANCIAL SUBMISSIONS

The Board of Health approved the submission of five proposals for one-time funding for 2021:

- COVID-19 General – Continue the additional capacity developed in 2020 to promote public health precautions, work with businesses and organizations, respond to cases/contacts and outbreaks, enhance communications, conduct surveillance and report to the community.
- COVID-19 Vaccine – Expand the vaccine program to add community pop-up clinics, paramedic support for individuals on chronic home care and people who can't leave their home, and expand fixed vaccine sites.
- Caretaker Sinks
- Computer Equipment
- Public Health Inspector Practicum

COVID-19 UPDATE

Community outbreaks of COVID-19 in Lanark East and Lanark West have contributed to a surge of new COVID-19 infections in these areas over the past month. Medical Officer of Health Section 22 Class Orders were issued separately in each area to decrease opportunities for people to gather and risk the spread of the virus.

In response to this rise in COVID-19 infections, the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit region was moved initially to the Yellow Zone and then the next week, on March 15, 2021, into the Red/Control Zone. Information was sent to all businesses and resources were developed on the Health Unit Website for the move to each of the Zones.

VACCINE PROGRAM

Overall, 18,000 people in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark have received the COVID-19 vaccine. The fixed site vaccine clinics are going well in Kemptville, Almonte, Brockville and Smiths Falls with the Pfizer vaccine. Some will be expanding in April as they move to a bigger space.

The mobile clinics are close to completing vaccines for residents in retirement homes and are giving second doses to residents in long term care homes. Planning is underway to start community pop-up clinics by mid-April. The community paramedic programs in both Lanark and Leeds-Grenville have begun home visits to provide Moderna vaccine to people on chronic home care or who have mobility problems or who cannot leave home to get the vaccine.

The provincial scheduling system is now functional and people are being directed to it to book into vaccine clinics. The Health Unit also has been supporting people with our own existing phone system with the support of staff from United Counties and Lanark County. The existing system is not able to handle the level of calls being received. The Board recognized the importance of providing local support to residents so the Health Unit will explore new technology that can allow an expansion of the current system. A new eligibility tool is available on the Health Unit Website to decrease the number of calls and emails asking about eligibility. Details of who is eligible for vaccine, and when is also posted on the Website at <https://healthunit.org/covid-19-vaccine/>. The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark [COVID-19 Distribution and Administration Roll Out Plan](#) outlines plans going forward to respond to the provincial vaccine framework. The actual roll out depends on the availability of vaccine.