

Board of Health Meeting May 20, 2021

Summary

COVID-19 UPDATE

- Good adherence to public health measures across the region has now put Leeds, Grenville and Lanark in the Green Zone of the previous Provincial Framework. The number of new infections is low throughout the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark area and the number of outbreaks in all settings is also low, as outlined in the new Outbreak Report on the Health Unit website.
- 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.

VACCINE PROGRAM

- As of Monday, May 17, there are 57,836 people in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark that have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine through one of the Health Unit vaccine fixed or community clinics and primary care clinics.
- The mobile clinic teams are collaborating with eight municipalities and local health care providers to do community vaccine clinics around the region to increase access to the vaccine.
- Pharmacies are now being given Moderna or Pfizer vaccine for people age 18 plus. We are expecting these vaccines will also come to our pharmacies. People are encouraged to check the provincial website for local pharmacy vaccine availability in the coming weeks.
- LGL primary care providers are being given Moderna vaccine for their clinic group.
- Planning is underway with the school boards and community partners for the Youth and Family Vaccine Program in mid-June. The provincial plan is that all youth age 12 to 17 will have received their two doses of Pfizer vaccine before school starts in the fall.

ILLICIT DRUG OVERDOSES

- During May, there has been a significant increase in overdoses in LGL, including some resulting in death, and are being reported by paramedics, emergency departments, and the Health Unit overdose reporting tool. Most overdoses are related to fentanyl use. The Health Unit is providing access to naloxone and encouraging people to use with others so that support is there in case of an overdose. Municipal drug strategies have a key role in reducing drug use and harm reduction.
- This increase is consistent with the situation across the province. The May 2021 report from the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network states: "in the months following the State of Emergency declaration in Ontario on March 17, 2020, there was a significant acceleration in the number of opioid-related deaths observed across Ontario."