

SUMMARY

Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Municipal - Public Health Networking Call, Friday, April 26, 2024

Recording: <https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/8-dOspcR8Bazm9n5qocBmC0gCwXKf7AhAfxUoiksYbld0fChjCCSITROmRyNtNYi.aZ5SJH3U91ir7IYL>

Passcode: 2UK9CtZ@

- 1.0 **Welcome/Introductions** – Peter McKenna, Chair of the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit Board of Health & Municipal Counsellor Smiths Falls
 - Panel introductions made.

- 2.0 **Topic: Heat Alert System & Air Quality** – Joyce MacNeil, Senior Public Health Inspector, Kim McCann-Community Health Protection Manager (*Presentation attached*)
 - Dr. Linna opened to highlight the importance of this topic in public health.
 - Both heat and air quality effect the health of our population; inequitable distribution of those risks and health issues are both based on income of the individuals, income of the communities they live in, and especially the very old and very young.
 - [Extreme Heat Events Guidelines: Technical Guide for Health Care Workers – Canada.ca](#)
 - Air Quality Health Index
 - Ontario Wildfire can be monitored: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-fires>
 - Air quality can be monitored: <https://www.airqualityontario.com/aqhi/index.php>
 - Sign Up for Air Quality Alert Email Notifications: <https://www.airqualityontario.com/alerts/signup.ph>
 - Information about heat and poor air quality can be found on our website: <https://healthunit.org/health-information/home-health-safety/>

- 3.0 **Questions/Comments**
 - Q: What is the possibility to install one Air Quality Monitoring Station in LGL somewhere in a central location in consultation with specific Municipality?
 - Air Quality Monitoring Stations are installed by Environment and Climate Change Canada – municipalities and other agencies would need to advocate the federal government to install. Kim McCann will look into this further and get back to everyone.
 - Q: What type of air monitoring device is used on that list? North Grenville may be getting some air monitoring devices and I'm wondering if they are the same?
 - Provided by the Ontario department of Environment and Climate Change, which is a part of a national initiative or set of standards. Please see the report below; the appendices speaks to the network of 39 monitoring sites linked to each other that provide close to real-time data.
 - Air Quality Monitoring Station: [Appendix | Air Quality in Ontario 2021 Report | ontario.ca](#)

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- Comment: In regard to heat events in particular, as well as to some degree air quality events, it is important to recognize that indoor air is substantially different from outdoor air for a considerable amount of time.
Outdoors, heat is worse mid-day and cools down in the evenings. What you see in research is that in housing that is well sealed (oftentimes depending on the era of housing built), you could actually have the greatest amount of heat indoors during the evenings and overnight.
This is important to know when we think about who is at greatest risk; when to check on people, and when to provide messaging and alerts.
There is an analogies effect on the quality of indoor air that has a delay; outdoor air quality will be constant. Individuals who are economically and socially disadvantaged often live in collective housing arrangements, and are less likely to have air conditioning.
 - [https://ncceh.ca/sites/default/files/NCCEH%20Extreme%20Heat%20Event%20-%20Health%20Checklist%20WEB 0.pdf](https://ncceh.ca/sites/default/files/NCCEH%20Extreme%20Heat%20Event%20-%20Health%20Checklist%20WEB%200.pdf)
 - Air quality alerts are monitored by the hour. The Health Unit will communicate these alerts at least twice a day on social media to help with communications – feel free to share those posts with your community.
- Please reach out if you have any further questions: protection@healthunit.org

4.0 **Next Call:** Friday, May 24, 2024 at 10:00 AM