

MINUTES		Date:	Thursday, June 24, 2021
		Time:	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
		Location:	Microsoft Teams
		Recorder:	Shari McMillan, NBPSDHU
Meeting called by:	Louise Gagné, NBPSDHU		
Type of meeting:	Municipal Leaders and Public Health		
Participants: (NBPSDHU)	Dr. Jim Chirico, Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer Louise Gagné, Executive Director, Community Services Andrea McLellan, Director, COVID-19 Immunization Strategy Dr. Carol Zimbalatti, Public Health Physician		
Participants: (Municipalities)	Armour Township – Reeve Bob McPhail Burk's Falls (Village of) – Nicky Kunkel, Clerk Callander (Municipality of) – Ashley Bilodeau, Senior Municipal Director Calvin (Municipality of) – Cindy Pigeau, Clerk/Treasurer Carling Township – Councillor Susan Murphy Chisholm (Township of) – Mayor Gail Degagne Machar (Township of) – Mayor Lynda Carleton North Bay (City of) – Mayor Al McDonald Parry Sound (Town of) - Mayor Jamie McGarvey Seguin Township – Mayor Ann MacDiarmid Sundridge (Village of) – Nancy Austin, Clerk Administrator The Archipelago (Township of) – Reeve Bert Liverance West Nipissing (Municipality of) – Mayor Joanne Savage		
Non-members:			

Regrets:

Nancy Jacko, Chair, Board of Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit

Burk's Falls (Village of) – Mayor Cathy Still

Callander (Municipality of) – Mayor Robb Noon

Kearney (Town of) – Mayor Carol Ballantyne

Magnetawan (Municipality of) – Mayor Sam Dunnett

Magnetawan (Municipality of) - Deputy Mayor Tim Brunton

Magnetawan (Municipality of) – Kerstin Vroom, CAO/Clerk

McDougall (Municipality of) – Mayor Dale Robinson

McKellar (Township of) – Mayor Peter Hopkins

McKellar (Township of) – Councillor Don Carmichael

Nipissing (Township of) – Mayor Tom Piper

Perry (Township of) – Mayor Norm Hofstetter

Powassan (Municipality of) – Mayor Peter McIsaac

Powassan (Municipality of) – Ben Mousseau, EMC/Protective Services

Ryerson Township – Mayor George Sterling

Ryerson Township – Nancy Field, Deputy Clerk

Ryerson Township – Judy Kosowan, CAO/Clerk

South River (Village of) – Deputy Mayor Doug Sewell

Strong (Township of) – Mayor Kelly Elik

Whitestone (Municipality of) – Michelle Hendry, CAO/Clerk

Whitestone (Municipality of) – Mayor George Comrie

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE
CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Louise Gagné at 1:00 p.m.	
ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS Roll call and introductions were made	

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE
<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>The agenda was approved, as circulated</p>	
<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES (<i>June 10, 2021</i>)</p> <p>The minutes, dated June 10, 2021, were approved, as circulated</p>	
<p>COVID-19 CASE AND SITUATION UPDATE</p> <p>Dr. Chirico provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This morning the province announced that Ontario will be moving to Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen as of 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 ▪ Dr. Chirico opened the floor to the group to share their thoughts on the reopening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Municipalities and businesses are eager and open to moving to Step Two ○ Had the move to Step Two not occurred, municipalities would have anticipated resentment and kickback from their communities. It would not be well received if businesses were to learn again that they were not able to open. ○ There are some concerns with respect to adherence to physical distancing and social gathering limits ○ However, it is deemed that the majority of the population is respecting physical distancing and the donning of masks when required ○ It is recognized that the case numbers in Nipissing district are high, but the feeling is that these numbers are isolated. Parry Sound district is currently doing extremely well in terms of case numbers. ▪ Dr. Chirico provided that the outbreak that was declared last week at the North Bay Jail does contribute to a significant number of cases and does result in community spread, and we should not lose sight of that fact. As of today, there are 33 cases associated with this outbreak. ▪ Businesses and individuals will need to continue to take responsibility and follow public health safety measures so that the Nipissing Parry Sound District does not experience the same increases in case numbers as Porcupine (Timmins) Health Unit District ▪ The Health Unit is ready to move with the province into Step Two, but will continue to monitor the situation with respect to any continued increase in cases ▪ Group is asked to continue to reinforce messaging to their constituents; follow public health measures, physical distance, wear masks. Should measures become too relaxed, there will be a resultant province-wide shut down. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June is the first month that our district has seen more than 100 cases of COVID-19 in a single month ▪ In the last seven days, there have been 63 new cases, bringing total case count to 568, with 395 in Nipissing District and 173 in the District of Parry Sound ▪ The Health Unit currently has 71 active cases ▪ There are currently 21 active cases that have tested positive for a Variant of Concern (VOC), all of which are the alpha variant ▪ To date, there have been 2 delta variant cases in the region; both resolved ▪ Most cases are being seen in the 20-39 age bracket (approximately 46%) and in the 40-59 age bracket (approximately 33%). These age groups account for approximately 79% of the cases. ▪ The Health Unit is currently working with the Ministry of Health (Ministry) to obtain additional vaccines and is working towards opening up additional clinics to enable as many individuals to get vaccinated as quickly as possible ▪ The Health Unit has also been recognizing its most vulnerable population and offering mobile clinics to facilitate vaccinations for that community 	
<p>LOCAL COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE</p> <p>Andrea McLellan provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For this district, as of yesterday at 3:00 p.m., 72% of adults 18+ have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 23% of adults 18+ are fully vaccinated ▪ For this district, 51% of youth 12-17 years of age have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine ▪ As of yesterday at 3:00 p.m., there have been 103,170 vaccinations provided in the district ▪ Second dose clinics for youth are planned for the weeks of August 9 and August 16 ▪ While the preference is to receive the same vaccine for dose two as was administered for dose one, individuals are encouraged to receive the vaccine that is available ▪ Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are interchangeable and are both excellent vaccines based on the same mRNA technology ▪ As of Monday, June 21, 2021, all Ontarians who received their first dose of Pfizer or Moderna on or before May 9, 2021 are now eligible to schedule or reschedule their second dose appointment at a shortened interval ▪ It is anticipated that the province will soon be opening eligibility for all Ontarians that are 18+ to book their second dose accelerated appointment if their first dose was Pfizer or Moderna. It is proposed this announcement will be made sometime during the week of June 28. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyone that rescheduled their second dose appointment in the provincial booking system at the shortened interval must cancel their original appointment. To cancel the appointment, the provincial booking line can be reached at 1-833-943-3900. The number is also included on the Health Unit's website. ▪ Vaccine is not fully effective until 14 days after the second dose 	
<p>ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Question/Comment: Mayor Savage had assisted a couple of seniors with rescheduling their second dose appointments and they automatically received an email indicating that their original appointment had been cancelled, so perhaps individuals do not need to contact the provincial booking number to cancel a previously scheduled appointment? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andrea is aware that there was to be work on an upgrade to the provincial booking system and they may have resolved the problem; this is great news ▪ Question: How do our vaccine rates in this district (72% completed for first dose and 23% completed for 2nd dose) compare with the provincial vaccine rates? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The provincial rate is 77% completed for first dose and 29% for second dose, therefore, our district is a little bit behind the province ○ It is known that first doses do plateau at some point, and it will be somewhere between 70% - 80% where a plateau is likely seen ○ As stated previously, the Health Unit is working with the Ministry to obtain additional vaccine and is working logistically to get as much of the district vaccinated as quickly as possible and increasing existing clinics and creating new clinics throughout the district ▪ Question: We do know that the province was diverting vaccines to the hot spots. As we are now seeing a spike in our cases, will those vaccines now be diverted to our district? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Health Unit is receiving more vaccine as we speak; this week. A limiting factor currently is personnel available to administer the vaccine and support the vaccine clinics. The Health Unit has reached out to the Ministry for resource support. ○ The Health Unit will begin immunizing this coming week with the additional vaccine that is forthcoming 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Question: Do pharmacies receive their vaccine allocations through the Health Unit? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are two distributors that work with the Ministry to distribute vaccine to the pharmacies. The same process that is used every year for the flu vaccine campaign for pharmacies is being followed for the COVID-19 vaccine, therefore, it is managed through the Ministry ○ The Ministry also determines which pharmacies they are designating to receive vaccine ○ There is a process to be followed for any pharmacy that would like to come on board to administer vaccine ▪ Question: With respect to the data for vaccines that is available on the Health Unit's website, does the province forward those daily updates from the pharmacies to the Health Unit? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All the pharmacies, all the primary care, and all of the Health Unit's clinics are required to enter the data into a database called "COVAX" and the data that is posted on the Health Unit's website includes doses administered by primary care, pharmacies, and the Health Unit. All of this data can be pulled out of COVAX. ○ The data is updated on the Health Unit's website at 3 p.m. Tuesday to Friday. The data is entered in the morning on Mondays. ▪ Question: Where are the hot spots in Ontario? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Porcupine and Waterloo are the main hot spots at the current time ▪ Question: With respect to the additional doses that are forthcoming; what is the criteria for the eligibility for individuals who can access those? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Health Unit is working to ensure that we can expedite so that vaccine can be administered to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible ○ It is anticipated that the province will open up eligibility to adults 18+ very soon ▪ Question: Have there been challenges with no-show appointments for youth? Has it been a struggle to encourage youth to attend clinics? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No, this has not been an issue, although there were certainly a greater number of youth scheduling appointments when clinics initially opened up earlier in June. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Health Unit has initiated a communications campaign geared towards youth to increase uptake and dispel any myths with respect to the vaccine. The Health Unit's schools team and communications team continues to work towards building up confidence among youth.	
DATE, TIME, LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.	
ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.	

For Minutes only:

Louise Gagné

Chairperson/Designate

Shari McMillan

Recorder

Date Minutes Approved (yyyy/mm/dd)

*Approved changes to the minutes, if necessary, have been noted in red font.