

# MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, May 27, 2021

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Meeting called by:** Louise Gagné, NBPSDHU

**Recorder:** Shari McMillan, NBPSDHU

**Type of meeting:** Municipal Leaders and Public Health

**Participants:**  
(NBPSDHU)  
Louise Gagné, Executive Director, Community Services  
Nancy Jacko, Chair, Board of Health  
Andrea McLellan, Director, COVID-19 Immunization Strategy  
Dr. Carol Zimbalatti, Public Health Physician

**Participants:**  
(Municipalities)  
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  
Magnetawan (Municipality of) – Mayor Sam Dunnett  
Magnetawan (Municipality of) - Deputy Mayor Tim Brunton  
Magnetawan (Municipality of) – Kerstin Vroom, CAO/Clerk  
North Bay (City of) – Mayor Al McDonald  
Parry Sound (Town of) - Mayor Jamie McGarvey  
Ryerson Township – Mayor George Sterling  
Seguin Township – Mayor Ann MacDiarmid  
South River (Village of) – Deputy Mayor Doug Sewell  
West Nipissing (Municipality of) – Mayor Joanne Savage

**Non-members:**

**Regrets:**  
Dr. Jim Chirico, Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer  
Armour Township – Reeve Bob McPhail  
Burk's Falls (Village of) – Mayor Cathy Still  
Callander (Municipality of) – Mayor Robb Noon  
Chisholm (Township of) – Mayor Gail Degagne  
Chisholm (Township of) – Jenny Leblond, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer  
Kearney (Town of) – Mayor Carol Ballantyne  
Machar (Township of) – Mayor Lynda Carleton

McDougall (Municipality of) – Mayor Dale Robinson  
 McKellar (Township of) – Councillor Don Carmichael  
 McKellar (Township of) – Mayor Peter Hopkins  
 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  
 Strong (Township of) – Mayor Kelly Elik  
 Sundridge (Village of) – Nancy Austin, Clerk Administrator  
 The Archipelago (Township of) – Reeve Bert Liverance  
 Whitestone (Municipality of) – Michelle Hendry, CAO/Clerk  
 Whitestone (Municipality of) – Mayor George Comrie

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b> The meeting was called to order by Louise Gagné at 1:00 p.m.	
<b>ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS</b> Roll call and introductions were made	
<b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b> The agenda was approved with the addition of the following item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.1 Frequency and Structure of Future Meetings</li> </ul>	
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b> ( <i>May 13, 2021</i> ) The minutes, dated May 13, 2021, were approved, as circulated.	
<b>REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS</b> There were no action items stemming from the May 13, 2021 meeting	
<b>COVID-19 CASE AND SITUATION UPDATE</b>	

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<p>Dr. Zimbalatti provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Last week, Ontario announced its <b>Roadmap to Reopening</b>, outlining how the province will start to reopen over the summer months</li> <li>▪ The province is now allowing outdoor gatherings of up to 5 people (with physical distancing), and also allowing some outdoor amenities, such as golf courses and tennis courts</li> <li>▪ The <b>stay-at-home order</b> continues until <b>June 2, 2021</b></li> <li>▪ Province-wide emergency restrictions remain in effect until such time that the province moves into Step One of the Roadmap (expected to take place mid-June)</li> <li>▪ Provincially, there has been some decrease in COVID-19 cases, however, locally we have had more cases in the month of May compared to any other month since the pandemic began</li> <li>▪ The only way to keep provincial and local numbers low is for everyone to continue to follow public health measures</li> <li>▪ In the last seven days, we had 12 new cases, bringing total case count to 444 (278 in Nipissing District and 166 in District of Parry Sound)</li> <li>▪ This Health Unit district currently has 30 active cases</li> <li>▪ 27% of local active cases are linked to outbreaks and all 8 of these cases are linked to an outbreak outside of our district</li> <li>▪ Currently, there is 1 case in a child care setting</li> <li>▪ No official direction has been received from the province with respect to schools and whether there will be a return to in-person learning in June. The Health Unit is supportive of return to in-person learning. Medical Officers of Health throughout the province, including Dr. Chirico, and also Sick Kids, have been advocating for a return to in-person learning, and specifically for it to occur before the province starts to re-open.</li> <li>▪ The Health Unit has been receiving inquiries relating to the status of campgrounds and trailer parks. At this time, campsites in seasonal campgrounds are available only for trailers and recreational vehicles that are used by individuals either who are in need of housing or are permitted to be there by the terms of a full season contract. Once we are in Step One of the province's Roadmap to Reopen, campsites, campgrounds, and short-term rentals will be allowed, including overnight camping at Ontario Parks.</li> <li>▪ <b>Question:</b> Can we assume that enforcement is not an issue and that individuals are complying with the orders? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is some division in terms of enforcement between the Health Unit and local law enforcement, particularly in terms of the types of infractions that would be investigated and acted upon. There have been actions taken and charges laid by local law enforcement in terms of not following public health measures during rallies or</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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<p>protests. The Health Unit does have preference for an education approach to ensure that individuals understand public health measures. The majority of individuals are following public health measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Additionally, there may be enforcement in the background that the public is not aware of as the enforcement is not always advertised in the media</li> </ul>	
<p><b>LOCAL COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE</b></p> <p>Andrea McLellan provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Locally, 61% of adults 18 years of age and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine</li> <li>▪ As of yesterday at 3:00 p.m., 61,270 vaccinations have been provided in the district</li> <li>▪ Youth, 12-17 years of age, are now eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine and may book an appointment at one of the vaccine clinics</li> <li>▪ At this time, only the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine has been approved by Health Canada for individuals under 18 years of age</li> <li>▪ Youth focused clinics, available only to individuals 12-17 years, will be offered the weeks of June 14 and June 21. Youth must have turned 12 on the day they are immunized. Clinics will be listed on the provincial booking system and appointments may be booked either online or through the call center.</li> <li>▪ Individuals who are over 18 years are encouraged to take the first available vaccine. The Health Unit is unable to confirm which vaccine will be used for any clinic as the decision is based on vaccine availability at the time of the clinic.</li> <li>▪ The COVID-19 vaccine roll out means that we are One Step Closer to returning to regular day-to-day activities</li> <li>▪ In an effort to normalize the vaccine within our district, the Health Unit is launching its <b>One Step Closer campaign</b>. We have turned to everyday people (business owners, managers, staff, parents, grandparents) to help share their story about how getting the COVID-19 vaccine is bringing them “One Step Closer” to getting life back to normal.</li> <li>▪ Everyone who can do so is encouraged to book a vaccine appointment through the provincial booking system.</li> <li>▪ The Health Unit’s <b>Call Centre</b> is available to those with questions at <b>1-844-478-1400</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Question:</b> Are we closer to prioritizing front-line workers (those in retirement homes) for their second dose of vaccine? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Clinics are currently being scheduled for this population and they will be completed next week and the following week</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Question:</b> With respect to the One Step Closer campaign, it has been identified that the challenge will probably be the younger adults. Will there be promotion to encourage the younger generation to receive their vaccine? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health are both working on resources to encourage the younger population to receive their vaccine</li> <li>○ The Health Unit's One Step Closer campaign will also now include a youth lens. Messaging to youth will also be leveraged through the youth Instagram account. This Instagram account is called IMPACT.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Youth focussed clinics for the 12-17 age group will be offered the weeks of June 14 and June 21. All clinics will be offered between 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and between 12 p.m. to either 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. on weekends. These clinics are only available to 12-17 year olds. No one else is able to register for those clinics. Those clinics for youth on the provincial booking system can only be viewed by individuals that are between the ages of 12-17 years; therefore, if a parent attempts to view those clinics without their child's health card number, they will not be able to see them.</li> <li>▪ <b>Question:</b> With the percentage of the population locally that has now received first dose of vaccine being 61%, can it be assumed that we are now within Step One of the province's Roadmap to Reopen, and may go forward with public health measures listed within Step One (60%)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The province has proposed that the Roadmap to Reopen will take effect June 14</li> <li>○ The province will make an announcement each time a new step is reached within the Roadmap and those steps will be made provincially, as a whole. There will be at least 21 days between each step.</li> <li>○ Vaccination is only one of the indicators for moving from step to step within the Roadmap; there may be other indicators preventing movement into next steps too soon. The decisions will be made provincially on provincial indicators.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Question:</b> It is known that some individuals have had to travel for work-related reasons and have been able to access amenities that are not open locally, such as hair salons. Yet, other amenities are open, such as dentistry and optometry. Is there possibility that some of these other amenities could be opened? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The province is wanting to continue to be cautious with opening amenities too soon in order to achieve a sustained opening. Dentistry and optometry are essential services and are closely monitored for appropriate infection control practices in order to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Question:</b> Where does the Health Unit stand on school reopening? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Health Unit is definitely advocating for the reopening of schools. In fact, Dr. Chirico has signed on to a letter that the Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) and Sick Kids Hospital had prepared to the province in this regard. The Health Unit recognizes the impact of COVID-19 and online learning on teachers, children, and parents. It is anticipated that province will reach a decision fairly imminently. The Health Unit is in full support of schools reopening. School Boards, with whom the Health Unit engages in weekly meetings, is also fully supportive of reopening of schools.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Dr. Zimbalatti left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Comment and Question:</b> Have received incredible, positive feedback with respect to the vaccine roll out and how smoothly the vaccine clinics have been running. Very proud of our district. Will other dates for vaccine clinics, beyond June 3, be placed on the website? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, the posting of additional vaccine clinics is in progress and it is hoped that additional dates will be posted within the next couple of days. The weeks of June 14 and June 21 will be youth focused clinics. There will be some other clinics advertised June 7 and June 28 as well.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Question:</b> Given the number of vaccines that we are expecting that will be allocated, when will this district be able to receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of vaccine? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Part of the challenge with the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose vaccine is the way in which the booking system works. If an individual did not make an appointment for the first dose, they cannot book their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose currently. The Ministry needs to repair this problem within the system. For example, anyone who received their first dose as a staff member at a long-term care home or as an essential care giver at a long-term care home, or individuals who received their first dose because there was extra dose available at the end of a clinic, those individuals didn't actually have their first dose appointments booked into the system, meaning they do not have a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointment booked into the system and they cannot book a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointment at the current time.</li> <li>○ Currently, the Health Unit is in the process of pulling out of COVAX (the database where all immunizations are input) all the appointments that have been scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> doses. It should be noted that the booking system automatically made those 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointments for individuals, but those physical clinics do not yet exist. The Health Unit now needs to make arrangements for clinics on those dates and those locations where those 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointments have automatically been scheduled.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is anticipated that majority of individuals in this district will have received first dose of vaccine by mid-July</li> <li>○ It is proposed that 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointments will be booked in August/September</li> <li>○ It is also proposed that majority will have received their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose by late September/early October</li> </ul>	
<p><b>FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some participation for meetings has diminished</li> <li>▪ Is the group supportive of moving forward with these meetings? Would the group like to see the meetings presented in a different structure?</li> <li>▪ Members provided that meetings are informative and would be supportive of meetings continuing on a bi-weekly basis</li> <li>▪ Members appreciate the questions that are fielded by others</li> <li>▪ Louise provided that there is opportunity to bring forward topics stemming from the Health Unit's call centre. If there are frequent questions coming through the call centre, Louise will highlight these topics to bring forward to this venue.</li> <li>▪ Louise will follow-up with a survey to the group next week</li> <li>▪ Meetings will continue, as scheduled, on a bi-weekly basis</li> </ul>	
<p><b>DATE, TIME, LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.</p>	
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.</p>	

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.