

COVID-19 Response Update – April 13, 2021

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Report Summary

This report is the twenty-first Council Update on the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency and builds on the information provided in the previous reports on the April 7, May 5, May 19, June 9, June 23, July 7, August 12, September 8, September 22 and October 6, October 20, November 10, November 24, December 15, January 12, January 26th, February 9, February 23, March 9 and March 23 Council Agendas.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report is informed by all of the Strategic Objectives outlined in the City of Greater Sudbury Strategic Plan 2019-2027.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

A: INTRODUCTION

As of last Thursday, April 8, all of Ontario has been placed under a “Stay at Home Order” based on a province-wide state of emergency. This situation will continue for four weeks, until May 6, 2021.

This new order states that all Ontario citizens should remain at home except for essential trips for groceries, work or medical purposes. Additional restrictions have been enacted to ban indoor and outdoor dining and to ensure that non-essential retail products are only available through curbside pickup.

Despite these measures, Ontario's COVID situation continues to deteriorate, with record numbers of cases, hospitalizations and ICU patients. Much of this wave of infections is a result of the presence of COVID variants of concern which spread more easily and are resulting in more complex cases in younger adults. Greater Sudbury has not escaped this provincial trend and local case counts remain high, causing significant

concern for the Community Control Group.

At the same time, the rate of vaccine immunizations is accelerating and more than 50,000 doses have been successfully administered in our area. The response rate of citizens who choose to get their vaccines is extremely high by provincial standards and this bodes well for future community protection and safety.

City of Greater Sudbury staff continue to support the vaccination program as a high priority and will continue to allocate resources where required to ensure that vaccines are delivered as efficiently as possible.

B: CURRENT STATUS OF CGS SERVICES

There is no substantial change in municipal service delivery in the move from the Lockdown stage to the current Stay at Home Order. All of our communication channels and website have been updated to provide accurate and current information.

With increased restrictions on retail and dining establishments, By-law Services are working in concert with Public Health and Police Services to visit affected businesses to ensure compliance is taking place. As has been the practice throughout the pandemic, education is the primary tool used in this effort with enforcement action reserved for those who refuse to cooperate.

C: SUPPORT FOR VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

PHSD has now made vaccines available to people 60 and over, and it is expected that we will move to 55+ when the rest of the province opens vaccine availability to that age group. We expect direction from Ministry of Health shortly on vaccination for essential workers who cannot work from home.

Our CGS-supported vaccination clinics are performing extremely well with significant increases in vaccine distribution being realized. Over the weekend, the new clinic model at Countryside Arena allowed more than 2,700 people to receive their shot in a single day.

The Dr. Edgar Leclair Arena in Azilda is fully prepared and vaccinations will begin there this week. Centennial Arena in Hanmer will begin to host vaccination clinics next week. Countryside and Carmichael Arenas continue to be in service and so the community is well-positioned to continue to ramp up distribution as new supplies of vaccine become available.

For vaccine appointment booking, eligible local citizens are now able to utilize the Provincial Online Vaccine Booking System and this change has, in most cases, meant a faster and more convenient process. CGS continues to resource the local call centre to provide assistance in booking and to deal with specific eligibility groups. Feedback from the public has been very positive on all aspects of our local system.

D. NEXT STEPS

CGS Communications continue to work with PHSD to share and amplify the most accurate and up to date information for the public.

Staff will provide a further update at the meeting of Council on April 27, 2021.

E: REFERENCES

Links to all updates between April 7 and November 24, 2020 can be found in the December 15 report:

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council December 15, 2020,

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=33878.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council January 12, 2021,

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=34038.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council January 26, 2021,

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=34176.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council February 9, 2021

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=34252.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council February 23, 2021

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=34341.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council March 9, 2021

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=34405.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council March 23, 2021

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?documentid=37578>