

## COVID-19 Response Update

Presented To:	City Council
Meeting Date:	April 27, 2021
Type:	Managers' Reports
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## Report Summary

This report is the twenty-second Council Update on the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency and builds on the information provided in previous reports on April 7, May 5, May 19, June 9, June 23, July 7, August 12, September 8, September 22, October 6, October 20, November 10, November 24, and December 15, 2020. In 2021, updates have been presented on the January 12, January 26<sup>th</sup>, February 9, February 23, March 9, March 23 and April 13 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. There is no relationship to the CEEP.

## Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## A: INTRODUCTION

Since Thursday, April 8, Greater Sudbury has been under a province-wide “Stay at Home Order”. The province has extended this order for an additional two weeks and it is now scheduled to expire on May 20, 2021.

This 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.

Since the last update, COVID numbers locally have trended down significantly. This is excellent news for our community and health system. Other areas of the province have not been as fortunate, however, and

positive virus cases and seriously-ill patients are challenging hospital capacities in several communities. HSN has received patients transferred from harder hit areas and, as part of the province-wide health care system, will continue to provide care for all Ontarians as required.

To continue to protect our community and to ensure that we have the capacity to help our fellow citizens both locally and across Ontario, it is critical that people stay home and follow the guidance of public health. Everyone should remember that this wave of infections is largely a result of the presence of COVID variants of concern which spread more easily and can also result in more complex cases in younger adults.

At the same time, the rate of vaccine immunizations is accelerating and just under 75,000 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**

In response to additional orders from the provincial government, some outdoor recreational amenities were temporarily closed to the public as of Saturday April 17. These include:

- skateboard and BMX parks
- play fields including soccer and baseball fields
- sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball courts
- other park amenities including park outdoor fitness equipment, picnic sites and picnic tables.

Playgrounds, off-leash dog parks, the Bell Park Boardwalk and other trails and open spaces remain open but users are being reminded to maintain a distance of two metres from people who are not part of their household.

All of our communication channels and website have been updated to provide accurate and current information. By-law Services continue to work 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**

Over the next two weeks, several mass vaccination clinics are scheduled to be held at our arena facilities in Sudbury, Azlida and Hanmer. Targeted vaccination efforts are also scheduled for people who are homebound, living in congregate care settings or who have other health conditions.

The province has recently indicated that there may be adjustments to the vaccine supply in order to prioritize viral hotspots. Staff will provide additional details on this, if relevant, as information becomes available. In addition, there are some local pharmacies and physician offices who have been provided vaccines for distribution to citizens. This initiative is run directly by the Ministry of Health and not through Public Health.

## **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 May 11, 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>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council April 13, 2021