

Emergency Management Update – June 2021

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Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the recent business activities, relevant statistics and good news stories within the Emergency Management Section, Community Safety Department.

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

This report refers to operational matters and has no direct connection to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background

This report aims to provide the City of Greater Sudbury Emergency Services Committee with an update on information as it relates to recent business activities within the Emergency Management Section of the Community Safety Department.

The Emergency Management Section provides leadership, guidance, and direction to ensure the safety of residents in community emergencies. This Section is governed by the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA). The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) and the Greater Sudbury Emergency Management Advisory Panel provide further direction and advice to the Emergency Management Section. This section offers 24/7 support with a primary focus on the safety of our citizens through the effective management of community risks and emergencies.

Emergency Management

Emergency Response

COVID-19

The City of Greater Sudbury remains under a State of Emergency as was declared by Mayor Bigger on April 6th, 2020, due to the outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19, which constitutes a significant danger that could result in serious harm or death.

The Community Control Group (CCG) has been activated since March 16th, 2020 and continues to meet virtually on a biweekly basis to discuss operations and response in light of COVID-19, as well as future planning should there be case surges in the coming months and implementation of recovery plans.

As an added support to the CCG, Greater Sudbury Emergency Management Advisory Panel (GSEMAP) was repurposed as the Community Advisory Group (CAG) through which external emergency management stakeholders provide situational awareness and share information including public health guidance and facilitate information requests. The information gathered through these meetings are shared with the CCG as it provides a complete picture of needs, trends, and impact across the community.

Third Provincial Emergency Declaration

With the rapid increase in COVID-19 transmission, threat on the Province's hospital capacity, and the increasing risks posed to the public by the COVID-19 variants, the Ontario government in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, declared a third provincial emergency under s 7.0.1 (1) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMPCA).

On April 8th, 2021 the government issued a province-wide Stay-at-Home order requiring everyone to remain at home except for essential purposes such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise, or for work that cannot be done remotely. As Ontario's health care capacity is threatened, the Stay-at-Home order, and other new and existing public health and workplace safety measures will work to preserve public health system capacity, safeguard vulnerable populations, allow for progress to be made with vaccinations and save lives.

As more contagious variants continue to pose significant risks, the provincial declaration of emergency has since been extended until at least June 2nd, 2021.

COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation

In December 2020, after independent and thorough scientific reviews for safety and efficacy, Health Canada approved two vaccines for use in Canada: Pfizer-BioNTech (December 9th) and Moderna (December 23rd). An additional vaccine, Astra Zeneca was also approved by Health Canada in February 2021.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts (PHSD) unveiled a COVID-19 vaccination plan on January 15th, 2021 for its service area. The plan, Public Health Sudbury & District COVID-19 Vaccination Program Playbook, is the roadmap to vaccinate area residents against COVID-19. Vaccinations will follow the Ontario Vaccine Distribution and Implementation Plan and the recent COVID-19 vaccination updates issued by the Ontario government to implement the local vaccination program in three phases.

Phase 1 (January to March): Vaccines will be offered to seniors in long-term care homes and high-risk retirement homes, including staff and essential care givers; health care workers; adult (16+) First Nations, Métis, and Inuit populations; and adult chronic home care recipients (16+).

Phase 2 (April to August): Essential workers; adults aged 60+; staff and residents of additional congregate settings; at-risk populations; and remaining adults aged 16 to 59.

Phase 3 (September and ongoing): All remaining eligible populations who wish to be vaccinated.

The local vaccination program will be implemented in close partnership with community stakeholders to ensure access to vaccine is based on ethical principles and that the program is run efficiently.

The goal of the local vaccination program is to achieve a coverage level of at least 75% of eligible recipients in the service area, within the prescribed timeframe.

PHSD has completed vaccination in long-term care homes and other congregate setting for seniors. Certain high-risk healthcare workers and urban indigenous individuals are now eligible to receive their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at an interval shorter than four months. For urban Indigenous individuals who have already received their first dose, Public Health is working with Indigenous partners across the service area to ensure those individuals have the opportunity to receive their second dose sooner.

Beginning May 18th, all Ontarians 18 years or older in 2021 can book an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Plans are underway to offer the vaccine to individuals between 12 and 17 years of age during the week of May 31st. These individuals are only able to receive the Pfizer- BioNtech vaccine at this time.

It is important to note that while the local plan is in place and being executed, it is subject to change based on the timing and availability of vaccines in the community.

Host Community Planning

Annually, the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) seeks host communities' assistance in ensuring the health, safety and well-being of First Nations community residents in the event there is a need for evacuation due to flooding or forest fires.

As a result of COVID-19, many traditional host communities are unable to host evacuees due to the risk of illness and spread of COVID-19 in their communities.

OFMEM in light of COVID-19, developed a new framework that would help First Nations residents stay in their communities. The decision to evacuate a community during this time would only be made in exceptional circumstances (i.e., potential threat to life and limb) and if all other options such as sheltering in place if feasible, have been exhausted or unsuitable.

CGS Emergency Management Section continues to work with the OFMEM in identifying and assessing available accommodations in Greater Sudbury for First Nations evacuees. Should the need arise for First Nations community members to be evacuated to Greater Sudbury, the City in its efforts would play a supportive role in this initiative.

EMCPA 2020 Compliance Results

All municipalities in Ontario are required to establish and maintain an Emergency Management Program in accordance with the requirements under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.9. The Act establishes the minimum standards and specifies the requirements for emergency management programs.

Recognizing that municipalities continue to actively engage their emergency management procedures and programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of the Solicitor General has suspended the requirement for an emergency exercise in 2020. This suspension will allow municipalities to focus on reopening their communities and local economies while keeping residents safe.

Municipalities are however expected to complete other key elements of their emergency management program which includes conducting an annual Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA), identification of critical infrastructure, and review the municipal emergency response plan.

Greater Sudbury's Emergency Management Section has conducted activities to achieve compliance with the remaining requirements of the Act and Ontario Regulation 380/04. Our submission of the online compliance requirements was completed on December 31, 2020.

OFMEM has reviewed Greater Sudbury's submission and has determined that the municipality was compliant with the EMCPA in 2020.

Emergency Preparedness Week 2021

May 2 to 8 was recognized as Emergency Preparedness (EP) Week, a national awareness initiative that encourages residents to take action and be better prepared in the event of an emergency. The theme this year is "Be Ready for Anything".

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's activities were conducted virtually. A community survey on personal preparedness was launched on May 3rd and residents are encouraged to participate. The survey is available at [Emergency Preparedness: Be Ready for Anything | Over To You Greater Sudbury](#) until June 30th.

The results of the survey will help staff develop a baseline on our community's level of emergency preparedness, in turn guiding our public education program and internal operating procedures.