

COVID-19 Response – October 26, 2021

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Report Summary

This report provides an update on service changes and community response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

On Friday, October 22, the Province announced a new, gradual approach to lifting the remaining restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Entitled, “A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term,” this document introduces a gradual approach to lifting remaining public health and workplace safety measures by March 2022. The plan is to be guided by the ongoing assessment of key public health and health care indicators and supported by local or regional tailored responses to COVID-19 when required. The first changes resulting from this plan came into effect on October 25 and staff are working to align service levels to these new regulations.

In the Sudbury region, evidence of a fourth wave of infection is clear with the number of active cases now more than 150. This rise in case numbers has been attributed to several outbreaks in the city, most notably at the provincial jail, and the virulent nature of the current COVID-19 variant.

Efforts to reach additional citizens for vaccination continue and almost 123,000 individuals in our region have now received two shots. Regular clinics will continue at Carmichael Arena to address this demand. Targeted efforts also continue with mobile and pop-up clinics located in areas that are convenient for harder to reach populations.

B: CURRENT STATUS OF CGS SERVICES

Staff continue to monitor compliance with the CGS corporate vaccination policy that was finalized and communicated with employees and the public the week of September 13. The policy reflects management's responsibility to provide a safe workplace for all staff and visitors, and aligns with choices taken since the beginning of the pandemic response to maximize employee safety.

The new regulations from the Province allow additional capacity for specific service areas where vaccine requirements are in place. As indicated, staff are evaluating the approach for CGS services and will respond with more information later this week.

Enforcement for vaccine requirements remains the same as for previous COVID-19 regulations, with residents or business being asked to contact 311 if they have concerns. By-law Officers continue to work with our local partners at PHSD and Greater Sudbury Police to address any complaints. The Ministry of Labour and the Alcohol and Gaming Corporation of Ontario may also respond to certain complaints, depending on the situation.

Staff will continue to monitor provincial regulations and work with officials from PHSD to plan for upcoming changes and to adjust services as needed.

C: SUPPORT FOR VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

As noted, Carmichael Arena remains in regular use for vaccination clinics. Municipal staff are supporting this effort and continue to provide support to pop-up sites as well as with the adapted transit bus serving as the mobile vaccination location.

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. Currently, the messages have a strong focus on vaccination opportunities and on maintaining public health protocols in the face of the Delta variant of COVID-19.

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 <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=39762>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council April 27, 2021 <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=39856>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council May 11, 2021 <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=39958>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council May 25, 2021 <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=40062>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council June 15, 2021 <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=40281>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council July 14, 2021 <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=40487>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council August 17, 2021 <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=40648>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council September 14, 2021 <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=41886>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council September 28, 2021 <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=42002>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council October 12, 2021 <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=42114>