

## **Emergency Management Update – December 2021**

Presented To:	Emergency Services Committee
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Meeting Date:	December 8, 2021
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Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
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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 Response**

#### **COVID-19**

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

In January 2020, the Community Control Group (CCG) began meeting weekly to monitor the provincial COVID-19 response and related developments. Following the confirmation of a local case March 10, 2020, the CCG met bi-weekly to share information and coordinate staff efforts. Subsequently, in June of 2020, bi-weekly CCG meetings have reverted to weekly meetings. As of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the CCG has held a total of 83 meetings since its activation.

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.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, in response to rapidly rising COVID-19 case counts in Greater Sudbury, and in consultation with Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Sudbury & Districts' Medical Officer of Health implemented additional actions to limit the spread of the virus, protect community health, and protect the health system. Under the provincial *Reopening Ontario Act*, measures recently lifted by the Province will be reinstated for Greater Sudbury businesses and organizations. The measures include reinstating capacity limits and related physical distancing requirements, strengthening masking requirements at organized public events held outdoors, and requiring proof of vaccination for anyone aged 12 or older to actively participate in organized sports.

## **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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 90% of eligible recipients in the service area, within the prescribed timeframe.

In support of the province's efforts to get more Ontarians vaccinated, PHSD has ramped up efforts to make COVID-19 vaccines as easy and convenient for community members to get vaccinated. This includes measures such as the setup of pop-up clinics, mobile vaccination clinics, as well as delivering vaccines in resident's homes for those who cannot make it to a clinic.

In collaboration with the City of Greater Sudbury (CGS), PHSD launched the area's first mobile vaccine clinic. Starting July 13, the accessible and convenient mobile clinic traveled to locations in Public Health's service area to offer COVID-19 vaccine to residents. The mobile clinic, a converted transit bus, operated

throughout the summer. This opportunity has been now placed on hold with a plan to resume operations in the spring.

Beginning November 2021, third/booster doses will be available to high-risk individuals, providing them with an extra layer of protection against the Delta variant. Based on the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and in alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) recent recommendation, the province will begin offering booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to the following vulnerable populations if at least six months have passed since their last dose:

- Individuals aged 70 and over (born in 1951 or earlier)
- Health care workers and designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (including long-term care homes and retirement home staff and designated caregivers);
- Individuals who received a complete series of a viral vector vaccine (two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose Janssen vaccine); and
- First Nation, Inuit and Metis adults and their non-Indigenous household members

Booster doses are being offered to these groups based on evidence of gradual waning immunity six months after receiving their second dose and a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

While the province continues to report one of the lowest rates of active cases in the country and continues to make steady progress in vaccinating more individuals, offering the extra layer of protection provided by a booster dose will contribute to the fight against COVID-19.

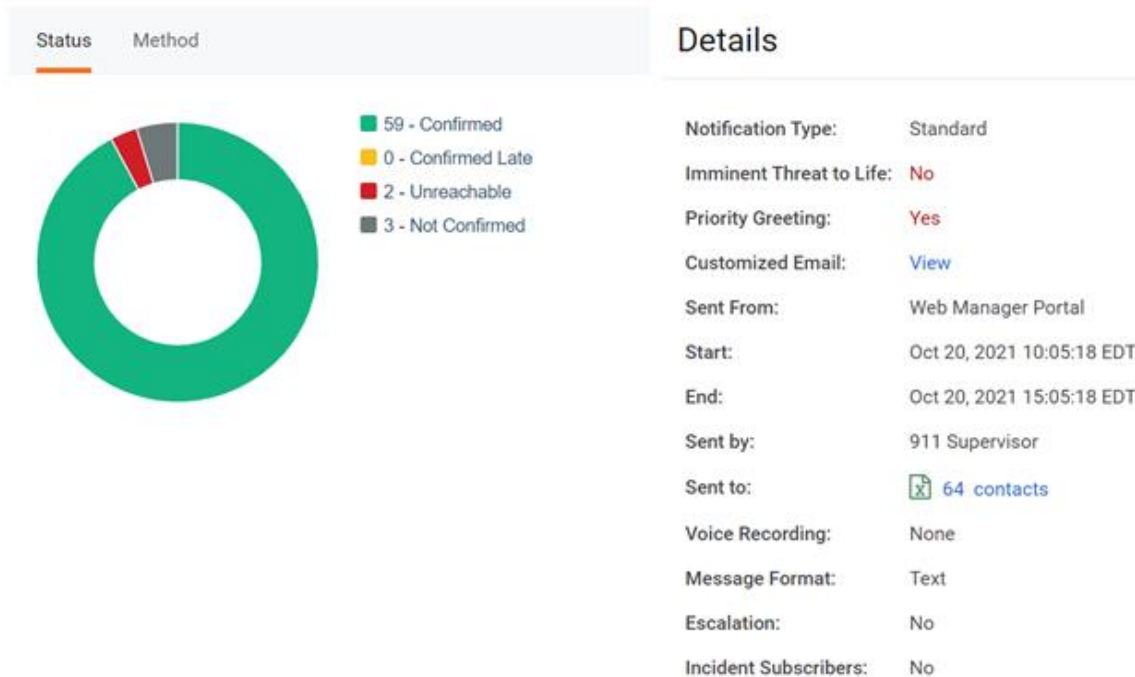
It is important to note that while the local plan is in place and being executed, it is subject to change based on the timing and availability of vaccines in the community.

## **Training**

In light of COVID-19 and labour disruptions at Vale, testing of the Hazardous Material Release Notification Protocol for the first two quarters of 2021 were cancelled. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, regular testing was resumed with "Exercise Indigo". The exercise was designed to test the communication process between response and partner agencies who would be involved in a hazardous material release event.

First responders including Emergency Management, Public Health and Vale staff also assembled via the emergency teleconference line for information gathering and sharing as well as to pre-plan should the given scenario increase in complexity.

The reporting results were positive in terms of Community Control Group members reporting back in response to the test notification as noted in the image below. Within ten minutes of receipt of the notification, 92% of staff had confirmed receipt of the message.



The exercise also provided a training opportunity and ongoing awareness for the Community Control Group and staff. Activities such as this assist in continuously improving our Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) by identifying gaps and assists responding and partner agencies in improving their response procedures.