

COVID-19 Response Update – November 23, 2021

Presented To:	City Council
Meeting Date:	December 14, 2021
Type:	Managers' Reports
Prepared by:	Ian Wood Strategic Initiatives, Communications and Citizen Services
Recommended by:	Chief Administrative Officer

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

COVID-19 numbers in the City of Greater Sudbury have continued to rise over the past few weeks, and recent trends indicate that there is significant community spread and that more difficult challenges are on the horizon. Along with an increase in positive cases and more than 20 active outbreaks in the community, additional COVID-19 hospital admissions are creating significant demands on Health Sciences North at a time when our hospital was already faced with capacity challenges.

New restrictions from Public Health Sudbury & Districts went into effect in Greater Sudbury on November 10. These regulations require Greater Sudbury businesses and organizations to reinstate protections recently lifted by the Province. They include reinstating capacity limits and related physical distancing requirements, strengthening masking requirements at organized public events held indoors and outdoors, and requiring proof of vaccination for anyone aged 12 and older actively participating in organized sports (not just coaches, officials, etc.).

Efforts to reach additional citizens for vaccination continue and more than 125,000 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.

Health Canada has recently announced that vaccines will be available for children between 5 and 11 years of age. PHSD has indicated that they plan to announce a strategy for these vaccinations in the next couple of days and that the first shots for children could start on Friday November 26.

B: CURRENT STATUS OF CGS SERVICES

The City's mandatory COVID-19 Employee Vaccination Policy officially went into effect on November 15. It requires all employees to be fully vaccinated with an accepted vaccine, unless they have a valid Human Rights Code-based exemption for medical or religious reasons. As of November 19, nearly 2,800 employees had provided their vaccination status, and 99 per cent of active employees had received at least their first dose, with 97 per cent being fully vaccinated. Employees who chose not to be vaccinated requested a leave by November 16, in accordance with current policies and/or collective bargaining agreements, and mitigation strategies have been put in place to address these absences.

As approved by Council on November 9, the City has expanded proof of vaccination requirements to include some additional municipal facilities where visitors typically stay for longer periods of time. This change, which went into effect earlier in November, requires anyone 12 and older to show proof of full vaccination when visiting the following locations:

- Lionel E. Lalonde Centre, specifically the areas used to host training events, meetings and conferences (the Collision Reporting Centre is not included)
- All publicly accessible meeting rooms in City facilities, including Council Chambers
- Municipally-owned community halls

Other municipal facilities where visits are typically briefer and more transactional, such as Libraries, Citizen Service Centres and the remainder of Tom Davies Square, are not covered under these new requirements. The Greater Sudbury Public Library is, however, requiring proof of vaccination for those who use meeting rooms within the branches.

Under the PHSD restrictions that went into effect November 10, the following changes to municipal services will remain in place until further notice:

Arenas

Capacity is reduced to 50 per cent. Masks are required for anyone entering the arena facility. Only skaters engaged in intense physical activity are not required to wear a mask.

Proof of full vaccination is required for anyone 12 and older who is entering the building as a spectator, participant, coach, official or volunteer, including those entering for the sole purpose of participating in an organized sport. Spectators 11 and younger must be accompanied by an adult who is fully vaccinated.

Carmichael Arena remains in use as a vaccination clinic. For more information, visit www.greatersudbury.ca/play/arenas.

Pools and Fitness Centres

Capacity is reduced to 50 per cent. Visitors are required to book reservations (one-hour time slots) in advance. Walk-ins are not permitted. Masks are required when entering/leaving the facility, in change rooms, in common spaces and when not actively engaged in an activity.

Proof of full vaccination is required for anyone 12 and older who is entering the building as a spectator,

participant, coach, official or volunteer, including those entering for the purpose of participating in an organized sport (swimming lessons, gymnastics, martial arts, team sports). Spectators 11 and younger must be accompanied by an adult who is fully vaccinated.

For more information, visit www.greatersudbury.ca/play/pools and www.greatersudbury.ca/play/fitness-centres.

Outdoor Recreational Amenities

The number of spectators at outdoors sports and games must not exceed 75 per cent of the usual capacity. Permit holders are responsible for monitoring spectators and having an approved safety/return to play plan.

When using any outdoor facility, users must maintain a distance of two metres from people who are not part of their household. A mask or face covering is required when physical distancing is a challenge. Benches, waste bins, gates, handrails and other surfaces are not sanitized.

Reminders on Other City Services

- Libraries and Citizen Service Centres are open for in-person service, with capacity limits. Computer access is available with a two-hour limit per person per day. Computer stations are limited to maintain distancing. Curbside service remains available upon request. Proof of vaccination is required for those using library meeting rooms.
- Residents who require Citizen Service Centre services are encouraged to call ahead and may be asked to make an appointment for some services. For more information, visit www.sudburylibraries.ca/covid-19-update.
- Services at Tom Davies Square remain available by appointment. Contact 311 by phone or Live Web Chat (311.greatersudbury.ca) to make an appointment or discuss alternate service. Many services are available by telephone or through the Customer Service Portal at 311.greatersudbury.ca.
- The Greater Sudbury Animal Shelter continues to accept visitors for animal adoption or surrender by appointment only. Contact 311 to make an appointment.

In response to the latest recommendations from PHSD, CGS staff remain in a work-from-home status wherever possible, and plans to return to the office will be postponed and reevaluated once the future of public health directions becomes clear.

C: SUPPORT FOR VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

Carmichael Arena remains in regular use for vaccination clinics and activity is increasing as a result of the provincial authorization for booster immunizations for citizens who are 70 and over. 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>

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

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=42306>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council November 9, 2021
<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream>.