

COVID-19 Response – October 12, 2021

Presented To:	City Council
Meeting Date:	October 12, 2021
Type:	Managers' Reports
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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

Ontario remains in Step 3 of the provincial Roadmap to Reopen, which came into effect on Friday, July 16. This step brought in loosened restrictions on both indoor and outdoor gatherings although public health protocols, including physical distancing and masks, remain in effect.

Although provincial vaccination numbers meet the stated requirement to move out of Step 3, the number of active cases has rebounded and the Delta variant is taking our province into a fourth wave. It is likely that this situation would need to stabilize before any additional steps are considered.

In the Sudbury region, active case numbers have pushed up as well and now stand in the low sixties, despite excellent public participation in the vaccination effort. More than 120,000 individuals in our region have now received two shots and the provincial requirement for proof of vaccination, which began September 22, appears to have encouraged more people to get a vaccine. 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

A corporate vaccination policy 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.

As part of ongoing efforts to protect long-term care residents and staff during the Delta-driven fourth wave, the Province has announced that COVID-19 vaccinations will be mandatory for all in-home staff, including support workers, students, and volunteers. As a result, only those Pioneer Manor staff who provide proof of full vaccination or have a valid medical exemption are permitted to work in the Home after November 15, 2021.

As of September 22, the Province requires people to be fully vaccinated and provide proof of their vaccination status to access certain indoor public settings and facilities. This includes our municipal pools, arenas, fitness centres and community halls. Information was provided publicly before this new requirement began, and complete COVID-19 user guidelines for these facilities are posted on our website.

Currently, the Province requires proof of vaccination for those 12 and older entering indoor sport and recreational fitness facilities but exempts those under 18 who enter only to participate in an organized sport. Current provincial requirements also exempt workers and volunteers, including coaches and officials.

On September 29, Public Health officials from across Northern Ontario issued additional directives regarding proof of vaccination at leisure facilities. Beginning October 14, anyone aged 12 and older who is coaching, officiating, or volunteering at indoor organized sports will be required to provide proof of vaccination unless a medical exemption applies.

As indicated by our Public Health partners, many local organized sports groups and teams participate in travel across Northern Ontario. As all seven Northern Ontario public health units are implementing the same requirement, there will be a consistent approach to vaccine requirements to help reduce the risk of spread and keep communities safe.

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>