

## For Information Only

### Community Paramedic Services' Role in the Response to COVID-19

Presented To: Emergency Services Committee

Presented: Thursday, Oct 15, 2020

Report Date Monday, Sep 21, 2020

Type: Presentations

#### Resolution

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#### Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

The City of Greater Sudbury's Health Promotion and Care Transition Community Paramedic programs in partnership with Health Sciences North, supports Council's strategic initiative to create a healthier community through community paramedic programs to meet the needs of vulnerable populations and reduce emergency responses and hospital admissions.

#### Report Summary

This presentation provides the Emergency Services Committee with an update on the Community Paramedic Program activities in response to the COVID19 pandemic.

#### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

#### Signed By

**Report Prepared By**

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*Digitally Signed Sep 21, 20*

**Financial Implications**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This presentation provides the Emergency Services Committee with an update on the Community Paramedic Program activities in response to the COVID19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused all levels of government, industries, businesses, organizations and healthcare service providers to adapt to new requirements and protocols. Paramedics were no exception, having adapted the Community Paramedicine program to provide services to our most vulnerable residents during this medical pandemic.

Launched in 2015, Community Paramedics have been serving residents across the City of Greater Sudbury. The program has several clinical pathways, which include paramedic referrals to community services, 911 frequent caller follow-up and an in-home chronic disease management program.

While 9-1-1 calls remain the primary focus of Paramedic Services, the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in Paramedics being called upon to collaborate more than ever with primary-care providers, community leaders and agencies throughout the City to establish in-home COVID swabbing, health clinics within shelters and priority clearance COVID19 testing for admission to long-term care or hospice.

### **Summary**

Paramedic Services has been supporting Public Health, Health Sciences North and Ontario Health North with COVID-19 swabbing of homebound individuals and swabbing in long-term care homes and other congregate settings during outbreaks. Over twenty five hundred patient visits and COVID swabs have been conducted to date. .

Community Paramedicine has been very successful in alleviating pressures on our local health care system and we are pleased that we were able to apply the specialized training and skills of our Paramedics to further support and assist some of our most vulnerable residents during this pandemic. Paramedics have stepped up to play an important role in the City's response to COVID-19 and in our eventual recovery