

Office of the Mayor

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Burlington COVID-19 Task Force Meeting #20 – April 26, 2021

Agenda & Action Items

Agenda:

- **Update from Mayor:**
 - High level overview of current COVID-19 situation, restrictions and vaccine eligibility.
 - i. Province is looking at sick leave
 - ii. We are at above 30% first shot vaccinated which is on track for Halton
 - Update on advocacy regarding restrictions and enforcement
 - Halton Mayors and Chairs endorsed six recommendations that recently came out from the Science Table
 - Review of COVID Science Table/OMA statement
 - i. ex: sick leave, sending more vaccines to hot spots, outdoor activities more open)
 - Upcoming Public Telephone Town Hall on April 28th – a great place for us to share a lot of the info we will be discussing together today. Expecting a lot of questions with so much on people’s minds these days especially around lockdowns and vaccines.
- **Update from Hospital:**
 - A very challenging time with “all hands on deck” at present and for the coming weeks.
 - 93% occupancy today. Increased ICU capacity to about 160% of baseline. 80% ICU capacity today.
 - Recent changes as a result of third wave – last week the provincial government announced ramping down all non-urgent scheduled care so they have done so to create bed capacity and health unit resources to be redeployed as needed.
 - Moved to team-based care approach in order to make the most in people resources to service more critical care beds.
 - Continue to receive transfers on a daily basis from the GTA.
 - PRU continues to be a vaccine location and over 14,000 people have been vaccinated there thus far. Can be converted within 24 hours back to ICU overflow beds if needed and move the vaccine clinic elsewhere in the hospital.

- Introduction of new Task Force member, Dr. Charach who is a psychiatrist at Joseph Brant with interest in the intersection between Mental Health & Addictions, Food Security and Climate concerns. Big welcome from the group.
- Ensure awareness of CEO's message to community from April 15th: [LINK](#)
- Recruiting of Pandemic Assistants (temp full and part-time non-medical roles supporting clinical units, such as delivering water to patients, helping them connect with family via Zoom/FaceTime, active screening): [LINK](#)
- Join the J Campaign presentation by Kevin Klein on behalf of Anissa Hilborn.
 - i. Campaign runs from April to June: www.jointhej.ca
 - ii. Looking for donations, lawn signs, apparel & community event participation
- **Update from MP Karina Gould's Office: Madeleine Case**
 - Re: the release of the federal Budget as well as the lift in deliveries of Pfizer in May – please reach out to her office if you have any specific questions or needs.
- **Update from MPP McKenna's Office: Ken Audziss**
 - 10K people signed up for MPP McKenna's vaccine eligibility alert email – 42% of people who signed up are now booked for first dose of vaccine + they are launching a phone campaign this week to make sure everyone now eligible is aware and offered support in booking.
 - Also mailed out a card to Burlington riding with info on eligibility and how to book.
 - Pfizer ships directly to the province and the designated clinics. OT is one of them.
 - Astra Zeneca, Moderna and now Johnson & Johnson ship direct to federal government who then allocates based on population across the country.
 - Note: hot spot advocates are looking to see the current 25% allocation of new vaccine supplies go up to 50% - a conversation supported by Science Table and something to watch for. Most of Halton is not considered a Hot Spot with the exception of one postal code area in Milton.
 - Pharmacy vaccinations – 30 and up are eligible for Astra Zeneca but the province is still limiting to age 40 and up due to supply for the time being. 26 pharmacy locations in Burlington are participating, all of which are on waiting lists for the time being until another shipment of AZ is delivered.
- **Update on Food Scarcity and Community Supports:**
 - Updates from Food Banks and other food/supplies organizations in what demand is looking like and any support we can collectively provide to rally donations or volunteers.
 - Robin Bailey – Burlington Food Bank – donations are starting to recently drop off and usual Easter drive via schools and churches was understandably weaker than expected so please spread the word that more is needed. On a positive note, we have signed a memorandum of understanding with Kerr Street Mission and are now going to be actively looking for warehouse space in Burlington as we have expanded our network and should be able to bring in more food through our Feed Ontario and Food Banks Canada memberships.
 - Graham Hill – Food for Life – now in hybrid season with a lot of donor fatigue so waiting to see impacts of some of the food production temporary facility closures in Toronto and Peel due to covid.

- Lisa Lunski of Wellington Square Church cannot attend but would love to connect with Dr. Charach soon re: the meal bag program. She will reach out.
- Colleen Mulholland of the Burlington Foundation cannot attend but wants to share the update that the Canadian Healthy Communities Initiative Round 1 applications have closed. Applicants are being notified on outcomes on an ongoing basis and all applicants will hear by May 14th. There were several Burlington-based applications submitted. Round 2 applications will open May 15-June 25.
- **Update from Halton Regional Police Service – Superintendent Robert Gourley, HRPS and Inspector John van der Lelie, HRPS**
 - Updates on how enforcement of new restrictions are going and any additional messaging we can help get out to the community to support health, safety & compliance.
 - Significant spike in calls (747 calls year-to-date re: covid) and they continue an education-first approach, breaking up gathering groups, working with City Bylaw teams when possible. Charge folks as necessary. Volume is similar between all areas in Halton.
 - Bylaw teams from cities are doing a great job taking on a lot of that workload where appropriate.
 - Feb/Mar calls were approx. 100/month but now 300 this month because we are back in lockdown mode.
 - Crime rates are down and mental health calls in Burlington are on par with previous years.
- **Update on Business Supports and funding – Anita Cassidy**
 - Update from Anita Cassidy of Burlington Economic Development re: rapid testing program (Chamber/EcDev get rapid tests from province and distribute to small and medium businesses for use) + most recently surfaced concerns of business community and how we can best support/advocate for them.
 - Judy Worsley, Aldershot BIA – businesses are hanging on, no one has closed except the Tim Horton’s franchise in Aldershot, but more supports are definitely needed. They’re hopeful to be able to do an outdoor market soon in a safe manner. Judy will touch base with Ken at MPP McKenna’s office on removing some funding barriers.
 - Kris Smith, Tourism Burlington – appreciates the info from Ken and will reach out as well.
- **Community Recovery Impact Identification – Amber Rushton & Michelle Dwyer**
 - Under our Municipal Emergency & Continuity Management Program By-Law, our CEMC is updating our Disaster and Rehabilitation Plan as part of our response efforts to the pandemic and is looking for input/insights from the group.
 - LINK: <https://app.mural.co/t/cityofburlington2206/m/cityofburlington2206/1619118066264/5d1a7bb2b496d60f74d160bd43a20244582a18e2>
- **Next meeting:** Next meeting is May 31st. We will look at moving that earlier given the evolving situation and dire nature of wave 3.