

MINUTES		Date:	Thursday, July 8, 2021
		Time:	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
		Location:	Microsoft Teams
Meeting called by:	Louise Gagné, NBPSDHU	Recorder:	Sheri Beaulieu, NBPSDHU
Type of meeting:	Municipal Leaders and Public Health		
Participants: (NBPSDHU)	Louise Gagné, Executive Director, Community Services Nancy Jacko, Chair, Board of Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Andrea McLellan, Director, COVID-19 Immunization Strategy Dr. Carol Zimbalatti, Public Health Physician		
Participants: (Municipalities)	Armour Township – Reeve Bob McPhail Calvin (Municipality of) – Cindy Pigeau, Clerk/Treasurer Chisholm (Township of) – Mayor Gail Degagne Machar (Township of) – Mayor Lynda Carleton Seguin Township – Mayor Ann MacDiarmid South River (Village of) – Deputy Mayor Doug Sewell Strong (Township of) – Mayor Kelly Elik Sundridge (Village of) – Nancy Austin, Clerk Administrator The Archipelago (Township of) – Reeve Bert Liverance		
Non-members:			
Regrets:	Dr. Jim Chirico, Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer Burk's Falls (Village of) – Nicky Kunkel, Clerk Burk's Falls (Village of) – Mayor Cathy Still Callander (Municipality of) – Mayor Robb Noon Callander (Municipality of) – Ashley Bilodeau, Senior Municipal Director Carling Township – Councillor Susan Murphy Kearney (Town of) – Mayor Carol Ballantyne Magnetawan (Municipality of) – Mayor Sam Dunnett Magnetawan (Municipality of) - Deputy Mayor Tim Brunton Magnetawan (Municipality of) – Kerstin Vroom, CAO/Clerk McDougall (Municipality of) – Mayor Dale Robinson McKellar (Township of) – Mayor Peter Hopkins		

McKellar (Township of) – Councillor Don Carmichael
 Nipissing (Township of) – Mayor Tom Piper
 Perry (Township of) – Mayor Norm Hofstetter
 North Bay (City of) – Mayor Al McDonald
 Parry Sound (Town of) - Mayor Jamie McGarvey
 Powassan (Municipality of) – Mayor Peter McIsaac
 Powassan (Municipality of) – Ben Mousseau, EMC/Protective Services
 Ryerson Township – Mayor George Sterling
 Ryerson Township – Nancy Field, Deputy Clerk
 Ryerson Township – Judy Kosowan, CAO/Clerk
 West Nipissing (Municipality of) – Mayor Joanne Savage
 Whitestone (Municipality of) – Michelle Hendry, CAO/Clerk
 Whitestone (Municipality of) – Mayor George Comrie

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE
CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Louise Gagné at 1:02 p.m.	
ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS Roll call was completed by Louise Gagné.	
APPROVAL OF AGENDA The agenda was approved as presented.	
APPROVAL OF MINUTES <i>(June 24, 2021)</i> The minutes, dated June 24, 2021, were approved by Mayor Lynda Carleton, as presented.	
COVID-19 CASE AND SITUATION UPDATE Dr. Zimbalatti provided the following update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locally, there has been a decrease in numbers along with a decrease in community spread 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In June, our COVID-19 situation was at a critical level, but thanks to the hard work of community partners, we have seen a decrease in case numbers ▪ The Health Unit is concerned that we are seeing a drop-off in the number of individuals receiving their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and is significantly lower than the provincial or national average. The proportion of people who are currently immunized leaves significant gaps in coverage for a virus as transmissible as the Delta variant. ▪ We are really messaging to encourage people to get their first dose in order increase the number of immunized individuals in the district; we are currently below the provincial and federal average ▪ When making the decision to get your COVID-19 vaccine, it is important to remember that getting the vaccine goes beyond you ▪ Individuals 11 and younger are currently not eligible to get their COVID-19 vaccine ▪ When you are fully vaccinated, you are helping to prevent further spread and helping to protect those who are not eligible for the vaccine ▪ Limited evidence suggests that if a fully vaccinated person does catch COVID-19, there is a reduced risk of transmission to household members ▪ And we know that, provincially, only 0.15% of partially vaccinated individuals and 0.02% of fully vaccinated individuals became infected with COVID-19 since COVID-19 vaccines became available in Ontario ▪ A recent study from Ontario suggests that the vaccines used in Canada—Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca—are very effective against the four big variants of concern: Alpha (B.1.1.7), Beta (B.1.351), Gamma (P.1), and Delta (B.1.617.2), especially after 2 doses ▪ The Health Unit encourages anyone with questions about the vaccine to contact the Health Unit’s call centre or their health care provider ▪ Over the weekend, we unfortunately shared the news of the passing of two individuals from COVID-19 ▪ While the Health Unit feels that every death due to COVID-19 is tragic, we are making efforts to avoid sensationalizing these events and to align our reporting of COVID-related deaths with other health units. Moving forward, we will no longer be disseminating news releases when individuals have passed due to COVID-19. ▪ The information on the number of deaths will still be available on the COVID-19 Status Report on the Health Unit’s website ▪ In terms of case numbers, in the last 7 days, there have been 7 new cases reported, bringing the total case count to 613; 433 in Nipissing district and 180 in Parry Sound district ▪ There are 22 active cases, with 13 of those active cases identified as the Alpha variant 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A total of 9 cases have been identified as the Delta variant; 7 in Nipissing district and 2 in Parry Sound district; however, all of those cases are resolved ▪ We do have some outstanding cases awaiting the variant testing ▪ As of this morning, it was reported that there are 3 individuals in hospital due to COVID-19 ▪ In terms of outbreaks, 42 have tested positive for COVID-19 related to the North Bay Jail outbreak; 34 of those cases have recovered, and 8 remain active ▪ As of today, the Faith Chapel Christian Centre outbreak is declared over as it has been 14 days since any new cases – there were 5 cases in total associated with that outbreak ▪ The Health Unit continues to work with the North Bay COVID-19 Assessment Centre, EMS, and other community partners to offer mobile testing and vaccinations for individuals who may experience barriers to accessing these services in relation to activity we have seen and are continuing to see in that community ▪ In a continued effort to reduce barriers to accessing the COVID-19 vaccine for anyone in our district, the Health Unit's surveillance and immunization teams are tracking vaccination rates based on geographical locations to determine what areas in the district are seeing a lower uptake in vaccinations ▪ A lower vaccine uptake does not necessarily mean there is vaccine hesitancy ▪ There are a number of reasons why people may face barriers to accessing vaccine, such as work schedules, or locations of clinics ▪ By identifying the locations where vaccination rates are low, we can then create an individualized plan to reach these communities 	
<p>LOCAL COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE</p> <p>Andrea McLellan provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As of yesterday at 3 p.m., we are now at 75% of adults 18 and older who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and 49% of adults 18 and older are fully vaccinated. Provincially, that number is 78% and 51% respectively. ▪ Additionally, 55% of youth 12-17 years of age have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 48% have received both doses. ▪ As of yesterday, a total 137,239 vaccinations have been provided in our district ▪ With the opening of vaccine availability for first and second doses to anyone 12 years and older, we have opened a number of appointments over the next two weeks throughout the district. We still have a number of appointments 	

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<p>available, so we really encourage everyone to book their appointments as soon as they can, and we encourage them to get the first available vaccine and not wait for a specific product</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You can book an appointment sooner than what was automatically scheduled when you booked your first dose, so we encourage you to book the earlier appointment ▪ By getting your vaccine, you can help protect those who are currently not eligible; that would be all those under the age of 12 ▪ We are finding that some individuals were not aware that they could book earlier; we are trying to get that message out there ▪ For those who are 18 years of age and over, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are interchangeable, and are both excellent vaccines providing high levels of protection and are based on the same mRNA technology. ▪ Vaccine interchangeability is not new – it is a routine practice with a number of vaccine products. E.g. Hep A, Hep B, etc. ▪ Individuals who want to print their proof of vaccination record can do so on the provincial website: covid19.ontariohealth.ca ▪ You need to make sure you have your health card with you in order to access this screen ▪ For more information on vaccine clinics, or to put your name on the Health Unit’s standby list, visit www.myhealthunit.ca. ▪ Action Item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Village of Sundridge noted that not all of their residents/visitors have access to the internet and are having difficulty finding out when there will be clinics in the area. ○ A communication will be sent out to member municipalities advising when and where clinics will be in the Health Unit district up until August 2; that will go out by tomorrow at the latest. ▪ With respect to tracking rates of immunization geographically in the region, it was clarified that Andrea McLellan is working with Planning and Evaluation to identify those pockets, and that once identified, Andrea will contact the municipalities involved directly to collaborate on how best to address the lower immunization rate and work on the best strategy for that community ▪ Regarding mandatory mask wearing, it was noted that there has been no changes in the directives from the Ministry of Health; it remains a provincial mandate 	<p>Andrea McLellan</p>

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE
ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">There were no inquiries	
DATE, TIME, LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.	
ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.	

For Minutes only:

Louise Gagné

Chairperson/Designate

Sheri Beaulieu

Recorder

Date Minutes Approved (yyyy/mm/dd)

*Approved changes to the minutes, if necessary, have been noted in red font.