

**Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Wednesday December 6, 2023**

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The Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit met at 2:04 p.m. via the ZOOM platform.

**Members in attendance were:** George Bridge (Chair), Rodrigo Goller, Duncan Bull, Ralph Manktelow, Guy Gardhouse, Steve Cavell, David Anderson, Linda Busuttil, Erin Caton and Chris White.

**Member(s) with regrets:** NONE.

**Ex-officio member(s) in attendance:** Dr. Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO.

**Staff members in attendance were:** Chris Beveridge, Rita Isley, David Kingma, Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum (AMOH), Kyle Wilson, Lisa Hebden, Emerson Rajaram, Patryk Wardach, Camille Loucks, Eric Campbell, Karen Mulvey, Lisa Needham, April Pollington, Rachel Coughlin, Brian Herman, Chuck Ferguson, Leslie Binnington, Anna Vanderlaan, Julian Martalog, Kyle Alderson, Phil Wong, Justin Angevaare, Liliana Marinko, Danielle Pelligrini, Mary Anne Kozdras, Jessica Tomasik, Danny Williamson and Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary).

**Guests in attendance were:** Joanne Shuttleworth (MEDIA), Adam Donaldson (MEDIA), and Taylor Pace (MEDIA).

**1.0 Call to Order**

**1.1 Land Acknowledgement**

Chair G. Bridge called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m., and Dr. Mercer read the WDGPH Land Acknowledgement in full.

**2.0 Disclosure(s) of Pecuniary Interest**

There are no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared at this time.

**3.0 Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: “To approve the Minutes of November 1, 2023 as presented.”**

**Moved: D. Anderson**

**Seconded: L. Busuttil**

**CARRIED**

#### 4.0 MOH Updates

MOH Update(s):

Dr. Mercer provided an update as follows:

- An update was provided regarding new nicotine products, and vaping. Nicotine pouches are a new item on the market labeled as a health product and approved under the National Health Product Regulations and marketed as a smoking cessation device.
- This product is available to anyone, even children and comes in appealing flavours such as berry frost, and chill mint.
- Dr. Mercer provided an update regarding vaping and the dangers associated with it. The importance of parents monitoring their children’s use of these products was emphasized.
- Large Covid wastewater signals have been found in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) and the peak is tracking higher than anything seen in the last two years.
- Dr. Mercer encouraged the public to consider receiving their Covid-19 booster dose ahead of the busy holiday season, to increase the overall immunity in WDG. A reminder is provided that the flu shot can be received at the same time if desired.
- More information about Covid-19 and Flu statistics can be found on the Agency’s dashboard on the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) website.

#### 5.0 Presentation(s)

Tobacco and Vape Enforcement

P. Wong presented in conjunction with Board of Health report BH.01.DEC0623.R31 – Tobacco and Vape Enforcement (see 8.0 BOH Report(s) for summary).

#### 6.0 Business Arising

- Holiday Office Closure 2023

**MOTION:**

**“That the Board of Health authorizes and directs Dr Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO to close the WDGPH offices, for a full day on Wednesday December 27, 2023, and to grant all employees the time off with pay.”**

**Moved: S. Cavell**

**Seconded: D. Bull**

**CARRIED**

#### 7.0 Consent Agenda

- NONE.

## 8.0 BOH Report(s)

### **BH.01.DEC0623.R31- Tobacco and Vape Enforcement**

Dr. Mercer introduced and P. Wong presented on screen and reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.DEC0623.R31 – as follows:

- This report highlighted the importance of utilizing local data to focus resources effectively.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the number of sales to minors since 2020 has been directly impacted and vapour products have become highly accessible to youth in retail stores. Over 30% of Youth Test Shopping (YTS) audits have ended in a sale within the last 8 months.
- Vaping can cause significant lung damage and parents should be aware of the products their children are potentially using.
- WDGPH has initiated several joint operations and inspections with community partners to address tobacco and vape use on school properties.
- There will be a parent information night in January for parents to ask questions regarding these issues. Monitor the WDGPH website for further details.
- A reminder is provided that flavoured vape products are not allowed to be sold by convenience stores. If you see these products being sold, please contact the health unit.
- The penalties for non-compliance vary depending on the infraction and increase heavily for repeat offenders.
- WDGPH will be launching a smoking and vaping diversion program in 2024 and will continue to work with its community partners to enforce tobacco and vape control in the WDG region.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.DEC0623.R31 – Tobacco and Vape Enforcement as presented for information.”**

**Moved: R. Manktelow**  
**Seconded: D. Bull**

**CARRIED**

### **BH.01.DEC0623.R32 – Nutritious Food Basket 2023 Report**

Dr. Mercer introduced and L. Needham reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.DEC0623.R32 – as follows:

- An annual report that monitors the accessibility and affordability of food.
- Data and income scenarios presented clearly showed that many low-income residents in WDG do not have enough money to purchase nutritious food on a regular basis.
- Dr. Mercer reminded the WDG community to support the local food banks if you are able. Some low-income residents may utilize the food banks to fill the gaps in their diets.
- Provincial letters have been sent by the County of Wellington to the Province regarding increasing the minimum income for social assistance.

- WDGPH will continue to work with its community partners and all levels of government to ensure that food security is addressed with income-based solutions.

**MOTION(1): “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.DEC0623.R32 – Nutritious Food Basket 2023 Report as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: D. Anderson**  
**Seconded: L. Busutil** **CARRIED**

**MOTION(2): “That the Board of Health share the 2023 Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) Survey results with the following to increase awareness of the cost of healthy eating:**  
**(a) Consumers through the Public Health website and other communications vehicles as appropriate**  
**(b) Local health and social service groups and officials.”**

**Moved: R. Manktelow**  
**Seconded: S. Cavell** **CARRIED**

**BH.01.DEC0623.R33 – Immunization Requirements for Students Attending School in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health**

Dr. Mercer introduced and K. Mulvey reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.DEC0623.R33 – as follows:

- This report outlined the immunization requirements for children to attend schools in WDG. To attend school in Ontario the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires proof of immunization of a valid exemption for nine designated diseases.
- There are currently 12,000 students who do not have up-to-date vaccine records. Suspension will be enforced if needed.
- School-based immunization clinics are offered at the elementary level as part of the grade 7 immunization program.
- Flu and Covid clinics are not provided in elementary or secondary schools as it adds too many logistical challenges at this time. In-house clinics are offered at WDGPH sites for families to access the vaccines.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.DEC0623.R33 – Immunization Requirements for Students Attending School in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: D. Bull**  
**Seconded: E. Caton** **CARRIED**

**BH.01.DEC0623.R34 – Fall Preparedness and Vaccine Administration in Congregate Settings**

Dr. Mercer introduced and A. Pollington reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.DEC0623.R34 – as follows:

- This report highlighted the winter increase seen historically in the fall and winter months within Long-Term Care (LTC) and Retirement Homes (RH). There are three main respiratory threats facing seniors in the WDG area: Influenza, COVID-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).
- A vaccine information session held on September 21<sup>st</sup> reinforced proactive monitoring of vaccine planning and administration within congregate settings.
- WDGPH will continue to work closely with LTC and RH in the WDG area to support them in their fall preparedness efforts while ensuring that residents are protected.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.DEC0623.R34 – Fall Preparedness and Vaccine Administration in Congregate Settings as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: C. White**

**Seconded: G. Gardhouse**

**CARRIED**

**BH.01.DEC0623.R35 – A Portrait of Older Adults in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph 2023**

Dr. Mercer introduced and J. Martalog reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.DEC0623.R34 – as follows:

- The term older adult is a broad term meaning any person over the age of 55.
- Older adults are more likely to experience low income, mental health issues, and live with chronic conditions.
- They are also more likely to work into their 60’s and 70’s than preceding generations.
- WDGPH recognizes the important role it plays in providing evidence-based data to its community partners on the needs of the aging population in WDG and will continue to work with its community partners to enhance the lives of seniors in the community and in so doing, contribute to the well-being of WDG as a whole.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.DEC0623.R35 – A Portrait of Older Adults in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph 2023 as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: S. Cavell**

**Seconded: D. Anderson**

**CARRIED**

## 9.0 Committee (Verbal) Report(s)

### Finance + Audit Committee Report:

- NONE.

### Human Resources Committee Report:

- NONE.

### Executive Committee Report:

- NONE.

## 11.0 Correspondence

- NONE.

Media and Public attendees were asked to disconnect from the meeting, at this time, as this Board of Health meeting contains a “Closed Session” section which falls under the exemptions pursuant to Section 239 of the *Municipal Act*. Please note that this session is **not** open to members of the public or the press.

(3:41) The Open Session portion of the meeting ended, and everyone left the meeting room or disconnected from the meeting.

## 12.0 CLOSED SESSION

- To approve the Closed Session minutes of November 1, 2023 [labour relations or employee negotiations and personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees and the security of the property of the BOH].
- To receive MOH updates [labour relations and employee negotiations and personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees]

**MOTION: “To move into Closed Session to approve the Closed Session Minutes of November 1, 2023 [labour relations or employee negotiations and personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees and the security of the property of the BOH]; and to receive MOH updates [labour relations and employee negotiations and personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].**

**Moved:**

**S. Cavell**

**Seconded:**

**R. Goller**

**CARRIED**

**Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH**  
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**CLOSED SESSION**

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**Member(s) with regrets were:** NONE.

**Ex-officio member(s) in attendance were:** Dr. Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO.

**Staff member(s) in attendance were:** Rita Isley, David Kingma, Kyle Wilson, Chris Beveridge, Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, and Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary).

**Guest(s) in attendance were:** NONE.

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**CLOSED SESSION MINUTES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.**

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**(3:59) Returned to Open Session.**

*Motions to be brought into Open Session:*

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health approve the Closed Session Minutes of November 1, 2023, as presented.”**

Chair Bridge wished the Board members and staff at WDGPH a happy holiday season and best wishes for 2024.

**13.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”**

**Moved: G. Gardhouse**

**Seconded: E. Caton**

**CARRIED**