

**Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Wednesday March 6, 2024**

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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, Sandra Starr, 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, Kyle Wilson, Lisa Hebden, Emerson Rajaram, Patryk Wardach, Camille Loucks, Eric Campbell, Karen Mulvey, Brian Herman, Chuck Ferguson, Anna Vanderlaan, Leslie Binnington, Julian Martalog, 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), Taylor Pace (MEDIA) and Jean Hopkins (PUBLIC).

**1.0 Call to Order**

**1.1 Land Acknowledgement**

Chair G. Bridge called the meeting to order at 2:03 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 February 7, 2024 as presented.”**

**Moved: R. Manktelow**

**Seconded: D. Anderson**

**CARRIED**

#### 4.0 MOH Updates

MOH Update(s):

Dr. Mercer provided an update as follows:

- Dr. Mercer addressed the increase of measles cases around the globe, the history of measles and vaccine programs within Canada.
- The recommendation is for individuals to receive two (2) doses of the measles vaccine (MMR) if they have not had measles.
- Locally, immunity varies amongst age groups. The measles vaccine is required to attend school in Ontario; however, a parent may wish to conscientiously object to the vaccine, although this will not prevent an exclusion from school if there is a case of measles in the school.
- Currently there are only nine (9) High School students who are not in compliance with ISPA regulations.
- The suspension date for elementary students who have incomplete vaccine records is March 20, 2024.
- There is a high level of herd immunity in the WDG community, however measles is one of the most communicable diseases known, and susceptible individuals are at high risk in a measles outbreak.

#### 5.0 Presentation(s)

Cannabis Survey

A. Vanderlaan presented in conjunction with Board of Health report BH.01.MAR0624.R06 - (see 8.0 BOH Report(s) for summary).

#### 6.0 Business Arising

- None.

#### 7.0 Consent Agenda

- **BH.01.MAR0624.C03 – Vaccine Administration in LTC/RHs**
- **BH.01.MAR0624.C04 – COVID Vaccinations**
- **BH.01.MAR0624.C05 – WDGPH Annual Privacy Program Update**
- **BH.01.MAR0624.C06 – Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccinations**

**MOTION: “To receive the Consent Agenda item(s) which have been given due consideration, for information.”**

**Moved:**

**E. Caton**

**Seconded:**

**G. Gardhouse**

**CARRIED**

## 8.0 BOH Report(s)

### **BH.01.MAR0624.R06 – Cannabis Survey**

Dr. Mercer introduced and A. Vanderlaan presented on screen and reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.MAR0624.R06 – as follows:

- Key points of the survey were reviewed, as well as knowledge gaps of cannabis effects on pregnancy and the impact on brain development.
- Regular cannabis use during adolescence can lead to significant cognitive difficulties.
- A. Vanderlaan reviewed the harms of edibles and the delayed effects a person may experience. It is important to ‘start low and go slow’ as it can take up to two (2) hours to feel the effects of an edible cannabis product.
- Public health will continue to share data with local communities using various vehicles, such as the upcoming parent information night this Spring. Please monitor the WDPGH website for details.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.MAR0624.R06 – Cannabis Survey as presented for information.”**

**Moved: D. Anderson**

**Seconded: S. Starr**

**CARRIED**

### **BH.01.MAR0624.R07 – Dashboard and Reports Portal Overview**

Dr. Mercer introduced and E. Campbell reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.MAR0624.R07 – as follows:

- WDPGH’s Health Analytics (HA) Team has redesigned the website including all new dashboards showcasing local health data and demographic trends, with more content planned for 2024.
- The website gained a significant surge in web traffic, with twenty-three (23) times more views post launch. The HA Team will continue to refine and expand the portal’s content ensuring it continues to be a valuable resource for the WDG community.

**MOTION(1): “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.MAR0624.R07 – Dashboard and Reports Portal Overview as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: D. Bull**

**Seconded: R. Manktelow**

**CARRIED**

**BH.01.MAR0624.R08 – Trends in Tuberculosis (TB)**

Dr. Mercer introduced and R. Isley reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.MAR0624.R08 – as follows:

- There was a significant increase in TB cases in 2023, however the absolute number was only twelve (12). TB is not a common disease in Canada.
- TB can affect not just lungs but other parts of the body as well making it more difficult to diagnose. TB is a treatable disease but early diagnosis and treatment remains important.
- The most common testing method continues to be the TB Skin Test and a Chest XRay. A board member asked: How do you know if you have been exposed to TB? –Dr. Mercer is the typical screen test is a TB skin test which is free. There is also a newer alternative method called a QuantiFERON®-TB Gold+ Test which is not covered by OHIP.
- TB remains a global threat, and the WDGPH TB program will continue to focus on treatment, testing, innovation as well as ending the stigma associated with the disease.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.MAR0624.R08 - Trends in Tuberculosis (TB) as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: R. Goller**  
**Seconded: S. Cavell**

**CARRIED**

**BH.01.MAR0624.R09 – Trends in Diseases of Public Health Significance in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph**

Dr. Mercer introduced and C. Beveridge and L. Marinko reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.MAR0624.R09 – as follows:

- The Infectious Diseases (ID) program at WDGPH reports all laboratory-confirmed cases of diseases of public health significance (DoPHS).
- There were notable increases in 2023 in six (6) DoPHS’, Group A streptococcus, pertussis (whooping cough), viral meningitis, shigellosis, amebiasis, and listeriosis.
- L. Marinko reviewed the epidemiological trends associated with these diseases.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.MAR0624.R09 – Trends in Diseases of Public Health Significance in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: D. Anderson**  
**Seconded: E. Caton**

**CARRIED**

## 9.0 Committee (Verbal) Report(s)

### Finance + Audit Committee Report:

#### **BH.04.MAR0624.R01 – Fourth Quarter Financials**

C. White introduced and D. Kingma reviewed the contents of F+A Committee Report BH.04.MAR0624.R01 – as follows:

- The Finance + Audit Committee met on March 6, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- The report was reviewed, and key points were highlighted for the Board.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.04.MAR0624.R01 – Fourth Quarter Financials as presented, for information.”**

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

**CARRIED**

### Human Resources Committee Report:

- NONE.

### Executive Committee Report:

- NONE.

## 11.0 Correspondence

- On March 1, 2024, a letter was sent to Dr. Michael Sherar of Public Health Ontario (PHO) from Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health (KFL&A) detailing their concerns regarding the closure of the Public Health Laboratory closure in Kingston.
- The Board of Health discussed the letter and C. Beveridge, Director of Environmental Health detailed WDG’s concerns regarding the planned closure of the Hamilton Public Health Laboratory.
- WDGPH to write a supporting letter in support of Kingston’s letter.
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**MOTION: To receive the above-noted correspondence, as presented.”**

**Moved: E. Caton**  
**Seconded: R. Manktelow**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health will send a supporting letter to Public Health Ontario (PHO) outlining the Agency’s concern for the closure of the Kingston Public Health Laboratory.”**

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

**CARRIED**

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.

(3:13) The Open Session portion of the meeting ended, and everyone disconnected from the meeting.

## 12.0 CLOSED SESSION

- To approve the Closed Session minutes of February 7, 2024 [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].
- To receive Closed Session correspondence [any other matter required or permitted to be dealt with in a closed session meeting under s. 239 of the *Municipal Act, 2017*].
- To receive Closed Session Finance + Audit Committee (Verbal) Report from Chair – MAR 6/24 [the security of the property of the BOH].

**MOTION: “To move into Closed Session to approve the Closed Session Minutes of February 7, 2024 [labour relations or employee negotiations 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]; to receive Closed Session correspondence [any other matter required or permitted to be dealt with in a closed session meeting under s. 239 of the *Municipal Act, 2017*]; and to receive Closed Session Finance + Audit Committee (Verbal) Report from Chair – MAR 6/24 [the security of the property of the BOH].**

**Moved:**

**C. White**

**Seconded:**

**E. Caton**

**CARRIED**

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

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

**Member(s) with regrets were:** Rodrigo Goller.

**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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**(3:46) Returned to Open Session.**

*Motions to be brought into Open Session:*

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health approve the Closed Session Minutes of February 7, 2024, as presented.”**

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive the above-noted correspondence, as presented.”**

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive the above-noted correspondence from the Grey Bruce Board of Health dated February 29, 2024.”**

**MOTION: “To ratify the Closed Session decisions of the March 6, 2024 Board of Health meeting.”**

**Moved: R. Manktelow**

**Seconded: S. Starr**

**CARRIED**

**13.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

**MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”**

**Moved: G. Gardhouse**

**Seconded: E. Caton**

**CARRIED**