

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

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The Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit met at 2:00 p.m. at the GUELPH Office at 160 Chancellors Way, Guelph ON N1G 0E1.

**Members in attendance were:** George Bridge (Chair), Duncan Bull, Guy Gardhouse, Steve Cavell, David Anderson and Chris White.

**Member(s) with regrets:** Rodrigo Goller, Linda Busuttil, Erin Caton.

**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, Jessica Tomasik, Jean Rudland, Danielle Pellegrini, Julian Martalog, Lyndsey Dossett, Louise Brooks, Anna Vanderlaan, 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**

G. Bridge called the meeting to order at 2:00 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 June 7, 2023 as presented.”**

**Moved: D. Anderson**

**Seconded: S. Cavell**

**CARRIED**

**4.0 MOH Updates**

MOH Update(s):

Dr. Mercer provided an update as follows:

- Health Analytics public local data portal aimed at supporting knowledge exchange with WDGPH’s partner agencies.

- Upcoming respiratory season. There is a week over week increase in cases being seen in WDG as well as provincially. Although not a large increase the trend is upward.
- There will be a covid vaccine available this fall along with the annual influenza vaccine, and both will be delivered by public health, pharmacies, and primary care providers.
- Residents of WDG will be able to receive their flu and covid shots at the same time in the same place if desired. Both vaccines may be safely given at the same time or at any interval between doses.
- A board member requested clarification regarding the potential for future lockdowns. Dr. Mercer assured the board and public that a lockdown would only happen with overwhelming evidence of public risk and is not on the horizon.
- Thankfully within WDG there is a high rate of vaccination and additionally many people have had Covid resulting in a high rate of baseline immunity. Despite this it is important for everyone to receive an annual Covid and flu vaccine to protect themselves each season.

## 5.0 Presentation(s)

2023 Poverty and Health Report
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J. Martalog presented in conjunction with Board of Health report BH.01.SEP0623.R22 – 2023 Poverty and Health Report (see 8.0 BOH Report(s) for summary).

## 6.0 Business Arising

- None.

## 7.0 Consent Agenda

- BH.01.SEP0623.C12 – Health Protection Second Quarter Summary (January 2023 – June 2023)

### MOTION:

- (a) **“That the Board of Health receive the Consent Agenda item(s), which have been given due consideration, for information.”**

**Moved: G. Gardhouse**

**Seconded: D. Bull**

**CARRIED**

## 8.0 BOH Report(s)

### **BH.01.SEP0623.R22 – 2023 Poverty and Health Report**

Dr. Mercer introduced and J. Martalog and E. Campbell reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.SEP0623.R22 – as follows:

- The importance of this report was highlighted, and it is hoped that this will become an annual report.
- This report summarizes the local picture of poverty. Poverty has detrimental effects on opportunities for education and employment and has a long history of stigmatization and systemic discrimination.

- There is a strong link between low income and health issues with higher rates of conditions such as diabetes, asthma, anxiety disorders and high blood pressure, present in lower income communities.
- Better healthcare services are more easily accessed by wealthier communities.
- Poverty rates have increased to higher levels than pre pandemic with the cessation of the pandemic income supports.
- WDGPH is using local poverty data to design more equitable programming.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0623.R22 – 2023 Poverty and Health Report as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: S. Cavell**  
**Seconded: D. Bull**

**CARRIED**

**BH.01.SEP0623.R23 – Secondary Impacts of the Pandemic on Children and Youth**

Dr. Mercer introduced and L. Dossett reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.SEP0623.R23 – as follows:

- The lockdowns that occurred over the COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on youth.
- This report speaks to the cascading impacts of the pandemic on child and youth wellbeing.
- Primary impacts are only part of the story, secondary impacts are the effects on individuals and their families. They are far-reaching, complex and have the potential to affect the community for years to come.
- Preliminary recommendations from WDGPH are reviewed, and a fall forum will be held in 2023 with community partners to work toward implementing these recommendations.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0623.R23 – Secondary Impacts of the Pandemic on Children and Youth as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: G. Gardhouse**  
**Seconded: D. Anderson**

**CARRIED**

**BH.01.SEP0623.R24 – 2023 Fall FluVID Campaign**

Dr. Mercer introduced and J. Rudland reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.SEP0623.R24 – as follows:

- This report speaks to WDGPH’s 2023 vaccination campaign through the upcoming respiratory season.
- The 6-week campaign will run from October 16 – November 24, 2023 at Stone Road Mall in Guelph, Fergus Sportsplex in Centre Wellington, and Menorah Park in Orangeville.

- Community pop-up clinics will also be available and Agency staff will continue to support immunization efforts in congregate settings and residents who are homebound or not mobile.
- In-office and homebound clinics will continue after the conclusion of the 6-week campaign.
- Vaccines will be made available throughout WDG at universities, public health offices, pharmacies, and through participating primary care offices.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0623.R24 – 2023 Fall FluVID Campaign, as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: S. Cavell**

**Seconded: C. White**

**CARRIED**

**BH.01.SEP0623.R25 – Solutions to Increase Youth HPV Immunization in Canada: Findings from Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, Ontario Report**

Dr. Mercer introduced and D. Pellegrini and J. Tomasik reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.SEP0623.R25 – as follows:

- This report highlights the three recommendations of WDGPH for increasing youth HPV vaccination in WDG.
- It is an important cancer-preventing vaccine offered to youth for free until their Grade 12 year.
- If you call WDGPH you can speak to a public health nurse about the vaccine and the risks associated with HPV.
- Further research will be conducted locally to study the impact of HPV vaccine series completion in WDG.
- For more information regarding vaccines and immunization, please visit the WDGPH website [here](#).

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0623.R25 - Solutions to Increase Youth HPV Immunization in Canada: Findings from Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, Ontario, as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: C. White**

**Seconded: D. Bull**

**CARRIED**

**BH.01.SEP0623.R26 – Talking to Youth About Vaping**

Dr. Mercer introduced and A. Vanderlaan reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.SEP0623.R26 – as follows:

- This report details the many negative risks associated with vaping, including lung disease, asthma, and cancer.
- Around 15% of high school age children report vaping in the past year and it was most commonly linked with youth who identify as non-binary or LGBT.
- Dependency on vaping is increasing as are the numbers of youth that report being addicted to vaping, with 40% reporting trying to quit within the last year.

- WDGPH will continue to monitor these trends and support youth to make healthy choices.
- For more information please visit the [Clearing up the Cloud](#) campaign on the Agency’s website.
- A Board of Health report in November will speak to inspections and enforcement measures related to selling illegal vape products. If you know of a retail store selling illegal vape products, report it to public health.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0623.R26 – Talking to Youth About Vaping, as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: S. Cavell**  
**Seconded: C. White**

**CARRIED**

**10.0 Committee (Verbal) Report(s)**

**Finance + Audit Committee Report:**

- NONE.

**Human Resources Committee Report:**

- NONE.

**Executive Committee Report:**

- BH.05.JUN2723.R04  
See Closed Session at #12 below.

**11.0 Correspondence**

- Sudbury Public Health letter re: Bill 103, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act

**MOTION: “To receive the above-noted correspondence as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: C. White**  
**Seconded: D. Bull**

**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.

(3:58) The Open Session portion of the meeting ended, and everyone left the meeting room or disconnected from the meeting.

**12.0 CLOSED SESSION**

- To receive MOH updates [labour relations and employee negotiations]
- To receive Closed Session Human Resources Committee Report BH.05.JUN2723.R04 – Labour Relations Update (2023) [labour relations and employee negotiations]

**MOTION: “To move into Closed Session to receive MOH Update(s) [labour relations and employee negotiations] and to receive Closed Session Human Resources Committee Report BH.05.JUN2723.R04 – Labour Relations Update (2023) [labour relations and employee negotiations].”**

**Moved: D. Anderson**  
**Seconded: S. Cavell**

**CARRIED**



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**CLOSED SESSION**

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**Members in attendance were:** George Bridge (Chair), Guy Gardhouse, David Anderson, Steve Cavell and Chris White.

**Member(s) with regrets were:** Ralph Manktelow, Linda Busuttill, Rodrigo Goller, and Erin Caton.

**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, Patryk Wardach, 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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**(4:41) Returned to Open Session.**

*Motions to be brought into Open Session:*

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive Closed Session Human Resources Committee Report BH.05.JUN2723.R04 – Labour Relations Update (2023), as presented, for information.”**

**MOTION: “To Ratify the Closed Session Decisions of the September 6, 2023 Board of Health meeting.”**

**Moved: D. Anderson**  
**Seconded: C. White** **CARRIED**

**13.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

**MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”**

**Moved: D. Anderson**  
**Seconded: S. Cavell** **CARRIED**