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Date January 26, 2021

Report No. 2021-111

To Chair and Members
City Council

From Brian Hutchings, CAO

1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Item For Consideration	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.0 Topic Report 2021-111 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 01.12.21

3.0 Recommendation

THAT Report 2021-40 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 01.26.21 BE RECEIVED.

4.0 Executive Summary

The CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update is a bi-monthly report designed to keep members of Council informed on recent local and provincial updates related to the COVID-19 emergency and the response from the Emergency Operations Centre.

Covid-19 new cases have been slightly declining since January 8, 2021 in Ontario. On January 11, the provincial 7-day rolling average of new Covid-19 cases was 3555. As of January 20, the provincial 7-day rolling average is 2850 new cases. Local case counts have slightly declined as well throughout January. There are currently 76 active cases in Brantford/Brant County, down from 173 active cases reported in Report 2021-111 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 01.12.21

Over 200,000 vaccines have been administered in Ontario since December 13. The province wide shut down went into effect as of Saturday, December 26, 2020. The EOC will continue to monitor local, provincial, national, and global data closely to continue to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of the residents of the City of Brantford.

Recent Noteworthy Headlines:

- City of Brantford Waives Parking Fees in the Market Centre Parkade Until February 28
- New Online Booking Process for Harmony Square Skating Rink
- Ontario Temporarily Pauses Residential Evictions
- The City of Brantford Allocates \$130,000 from the Social Services Relief Fund to Help Feed those in Need
- The City of Brantford Using Discretion when Enforcing 24 Hour Parking

5.0 Purpose and Overview

Report 2021-40 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 01.12.21 responds to recommendations outlined in Report 2020-219 COVID-19 EOC Actions and Operational Impacts to bring back ongoing updates to Council detailing the COVID-19 emergency. This report outlines:

- Emergency Operations Centre decisions and actions to date;
- Decisions that have been made by the Emergency Group as outlined in the COVID-19 Delegation of Authority By-law;
- Decisions that are being recommended to Council by the EOC; and
- Provincial policy changes that may impact the City of Brantford

6.0 Background

On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared coronavirus (COVID-19) a global pandemic. To prevent the future spread of COVID-19, all levels of government have taken immediate emergency action.

The Emergency Management Planning Committee (EMPC) first met on March 12, 2020 to coordinate the Emergency Management Program. On March 15, 2020, community partners were pulled together to launch the Unified Emergency Operations Centre. On March 17, 2020, the Ontario Government declared a

state of emergency under s 7.0.1 (1) the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

The City of Brantford followed with a municipal declaration of a state of emergency on March 19, 2020. On March 20, 2020, the City activated its Emergency Operation Centre (EOC).

Due to the ongoing need for emergency coordination and management, Council passed a resolution on April 16, 2020 that approved an extension of the emergency declaration until the Mayor, in consultation with the EOC, determined that the emergency was over.

On January 12, 2021, the Province of Ontario issued a second State of Emergency under s 7.0.1 (1) the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

On January 14, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., the Province of Ontario issued a stay-at-home order requiring everyone to remain at home with exceptions for permitted purposes or activities, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services, for exercise or for work where the work cannot be done remotely.

Several emergency actions have been passed by the EOC and by Council since the declaration of the COVID-19 Emergency. Those actions and decisions are detailed in the following reports:

- Report 2020-216 COVID-19 EOC Actions and Operational Impacts
- Report 2020-234 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 04.28.20
- Report 2020-237 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 05.12.20
- Report 2020-247 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 05.26.20
- Report 2020-273 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 06.09.20
- Report 2020-282 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 06.23.20
- Report 2020-307 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 07.14.20
- Report 2020-337 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 08.04.20
- Report 2020-370 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 08.25.20

- Report 2020-403 CAO COVID-19 Emergency update 09.08.20
- Report 2020-419 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 09.22.20
- Report 2020-447 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 10.13.20
- Report 2020-483 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 10.27.20
- Report 2020-520 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 11.10.20
- Report 2020-546 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 11.24.20
- Report 2020-585 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 12.15.20
- Report 2021-111 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 01.12.21

7.0 Corporate Policy Context

Emergency Management

8.0 Input from Other Sources

Emergency Operations Centre

9.0 Analysis

74% of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have been administered in Canada as of January 19. This accounts for 651,139 vaccines that have been administered nationally since December 13, 2020 with 224,134 vaccines administered in Ontario. 1,607 vaccines have been administered in Brant County/Brantford. Canada is currently administering an average of over 35,000 daily doses of the vaccine.

37,189 Canadians are fully vaccinated as of January 19, having received both required doses.

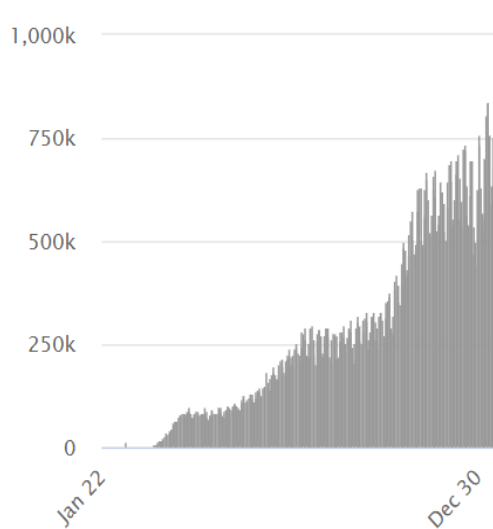
New Covid-19 cases had been on a steady incline since mid-October. As of January 19, 2021, trends are pointing toward early indication of new Covid-19 cases levelling off and declining locally using a 7 day average.

Global Cases (as of January 19)

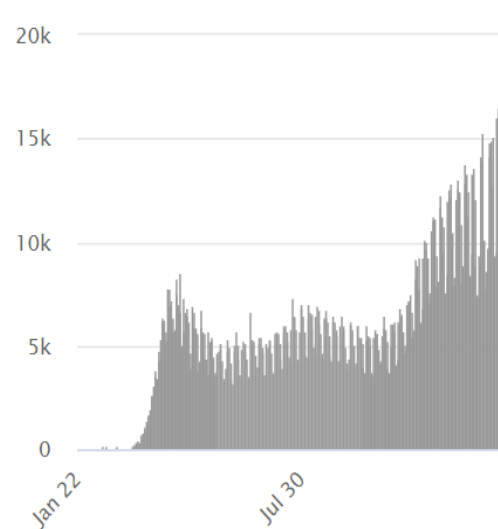
Cases	Deaths	Resolved
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96,586,748	2,063,803	69,243,074
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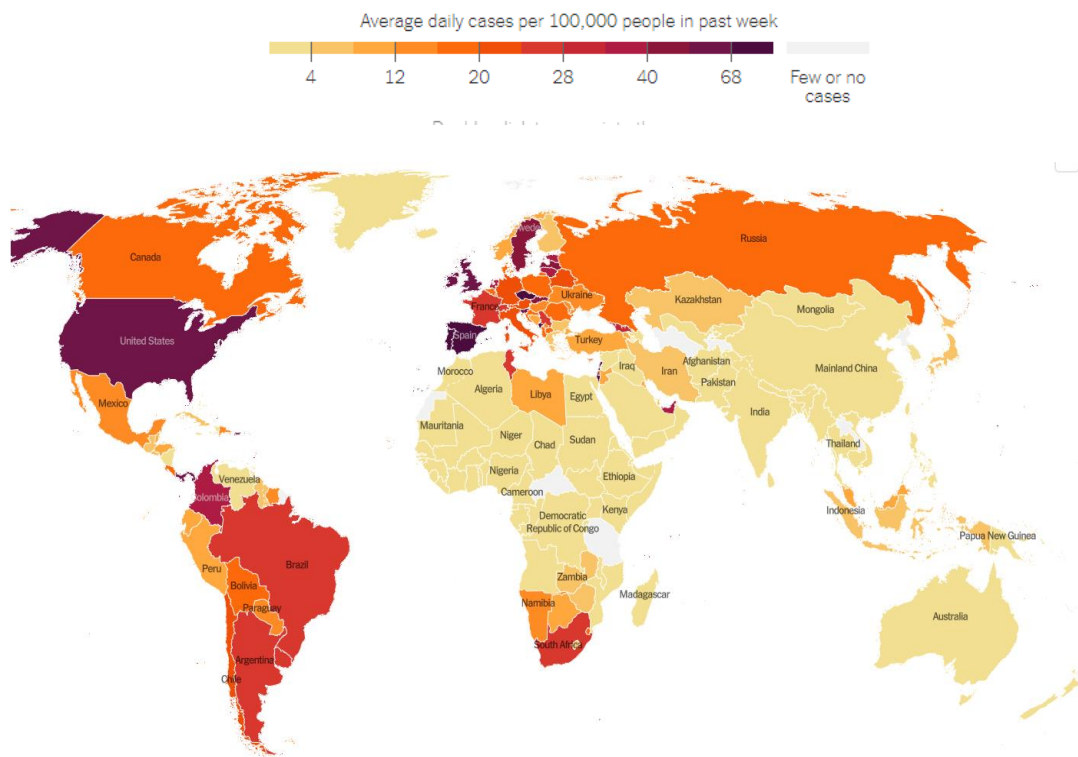
Global Daily New Cases



Global Daily New Deaths



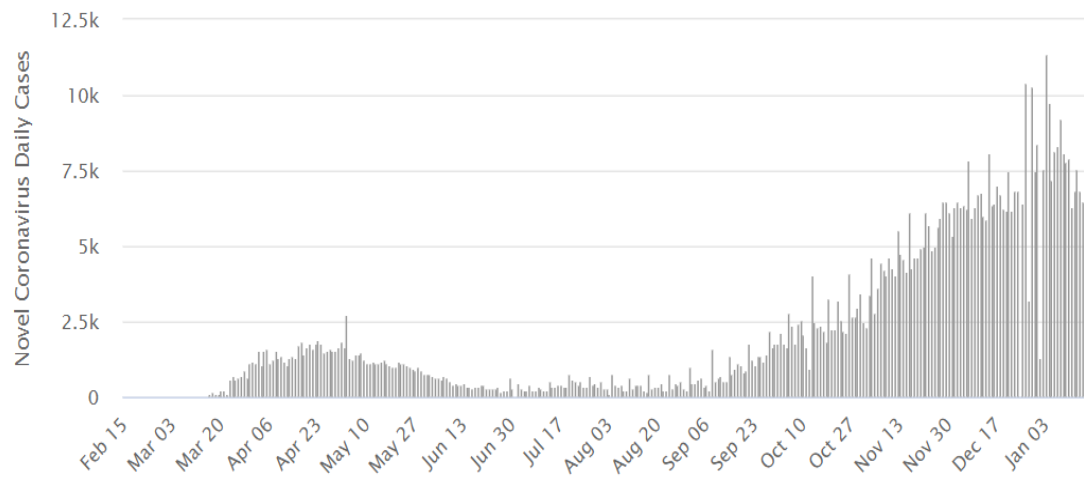
Global Hot Spots



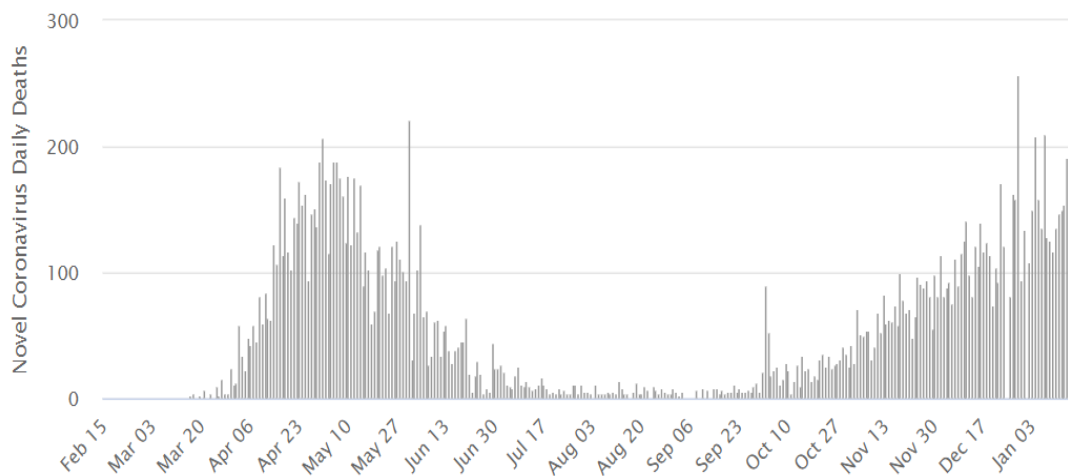
National Cases (as of January 19)

Cases	Deaths	Resolved
719,751	18,266	630,430

National Daily New Cases



National Daily New Deaths



Provincial Cases (as of January 19)

Cases	Deaths	Resolved
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242,277	5,479	209,183
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Local Cases (as of January 19)

Cases	Deaths	Resolved
1,268 (76 active)	6 (unchanged from last report)	1,186

Based on new Ontario modeling data presented on January 12, 2021, 75% of Covid-19 test results performed at the Brant Public Health Unit were returned within 2 days. This represents a significant improvement from Dec 23rd, 2020 at 49% and December 11th at 39.5%.

9.1 Updated Provincial Modelling

The Province released updated COVID-19 projections on January 12. The Province highlights the important role of individuals to flatten the curve and bring the active case count down, by continuing to follow public health measures, including avoiding large gatherings, physical distancing and wearing a face covering.

Key Findings as a result of the new forecasting are:

- Growth in cases has accelerated and is over 7% on the worst days.
- Almost 40% of long-term care homes have active COVID-19 outbreaks. Since January 1st 198 LTC residents and 2 LTC staff have died of COVID-19. Forecasts suggest more deaths in wave 2 in long-term care than in wave 1.
- COVID-19 ICU occupancy is now over 400 beds. Surgeries are being cancelled and the access to care deficit will continue to increase with real consequences for health.
- Mobility and contacts between people have not decreased with the current restrictions. Survey data show that the majority of Ontarians are helping limit spread by following them. However, case numbers will not decline until more of the population follows their example.

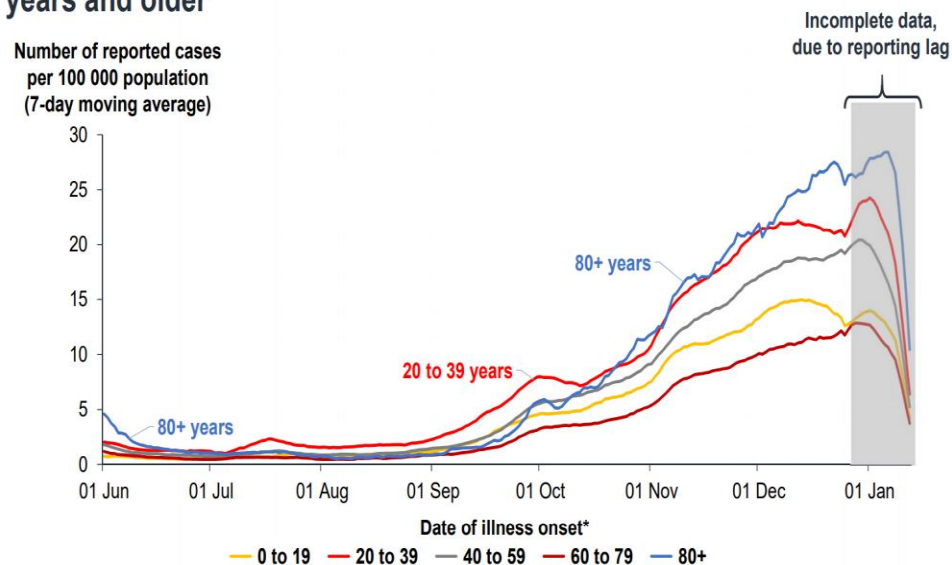
- A new variant of concern of SARS-CoV-2 (B117) could drive much higher case counts, ICU occupancy and mortality if community transmission occurs. The doubling time for cases could drop by more than 2/3. This new variant is now in Ontario.
- Without significant reductions in contacts, the health system will be overwhelmed and mortality will exceed the first wave totals before a vaccine has time to take effect. A detailed modelling breakdown can be found in Appendix A: Update on Covid-19 Projections.

A detailed modelling breakdown can be found in Appendix A: Update on Covid-19 Projections January 12.

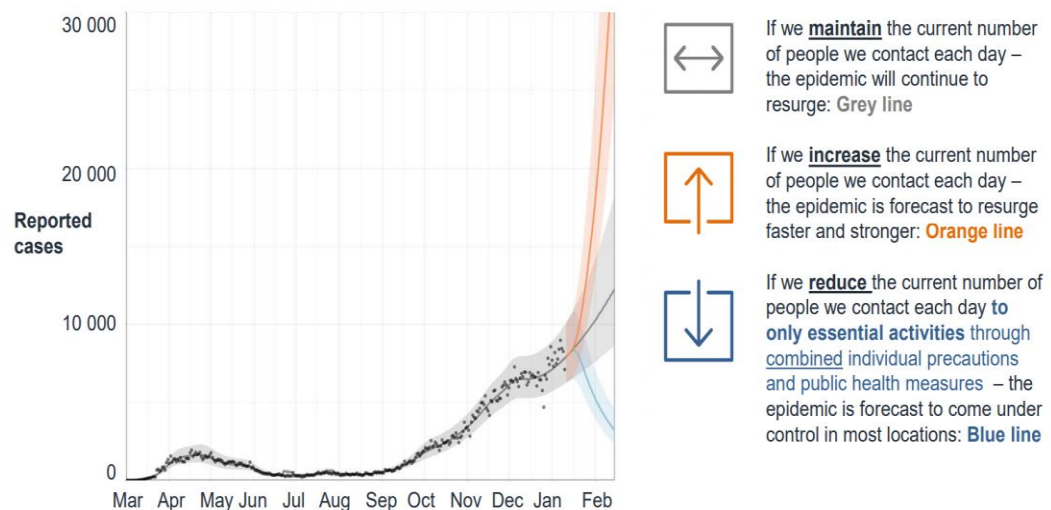
9.2 Updated Federal Modelling

The Federal Government released updated COVID-19 projections on January 15. The federal modelling highlights the continued escalation of incidents among high risk adults aged 80 years and older and the increased outbreaks in long term care facilities across the country. The federal modelling also suggests that Canada remains on a rapid growth trajectory; however, it highlights the impact of reducing the current number of people we contact to only essential activities through combined individual precautions and public health measures.

Continued escalation of incidence among high-risk adults aged 80 years and older



Longer-range forecast shows, overall for Canada, we remain on a rapid growth trajectory



A detailed modelling breakdown can be found in Appendix B: Federal Update on Covid-19 Projections January 15.

9.3 Local Outbreaks

Many local outbreaks have been resolved since last reporting. There are currently two active COVID-19 outbreaks in the Brantford area as of January 19, 2021. Both local outbreaks are in long-term care homes and affect one resident and seven staff members combined.

9.4 Operational Decisions of the Emergency Operations Centre

The EOC has continued to meet regularly to review the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as well as conducting additional meetings to review and plan accordingly to the provincial response framework. Areas of focus include operations, health and safety, enforcement and communications needs. In response to the ongoing provincial shutdown that took effect on December 26, 2020, the EOC approved the following actions:

- EOC approves free parking in Parkade until the end of February in order to alleviate parking congestion in the downtown core
- EOC approves local vaccination sites Woodman Park Community Centre, Lion's Park Arena, and Northridge Golf Course (until golf course opens)

- EOC approves direction to exercise a high level of discretion with respect to parking for more than 24 consecutive hours to accommodate needs of residents working remotely during provincial shut down

All other decisions and actions taken by the EOC are recorded and outlined in Appendix C: Emergency Management and Operation Centre COVID-19 Response and Actions.

9.5 Emergency Group Decisions

No decisions were made by the Emergency Group by way of the Delegation of Authority By-law.

In future, Council will be informed of decisions made by the Emergency Group by way of resolution. Additionally, the CAO will continue to report on these decisions in regular, on-going reports to Council.

9.6 Decisions Before Council

There are no decisions before Council at this time

9.7 Provincial Policy Impacts

9.7.1 Ontario Temporarily Pauses Residential Evictions

The Ontario government has issued an emergency order to temporarily pause the enforcement of residential evictions and ensure people are not forced to leave their homes during the provincial declaration of emergency and while the stay-at-home-order is in force. This emergency order will also protect homeowners who are facing evictions due to court orders for possession of their properties. Key highlights include:

- The Landlord and Tenant Board will continue to hear eviction applications and issue orders, but the enforcement of eviction orders will be postponed for the duration of the emergency order, except in urgent situations – such as for illegal activity. This includes orders issued, but not carried out, before the emergency order came into effect.
- The residential evictions pause is linked to the provincial declaration of emergency. The government will continue to

extend the eviction pause to align with the declaration of emergency.

- Ontario is investing \$510 million through the Social Services Relief Fund to help communities protect the health and safety of vulnerable people during COVID-19.

9.7.2 Ontario Expands Workplace Inspections During Lockdown

The Ontario government is taking additional measures to protect workers in response to rising COVID-19 cases. Beginning this Saturday and Sunday, approximately 50 ministry inspectors, as well as local bylaw and police officers, will be visiting big-box stores in Toronto, Hamilton, Peel, York and Durham. The blitz will focus on ensuring workers and patrons are wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and following every health and safety measure. Workplace health and safety inspectors will have the authority to ticket supervisors, employees and patrons who do not comply with COVID-19 safety requirements, temporarily close a premise and disperse groups of more than five people.

These efforts build on the "Stay Safe All Day" campaign announced earlier this week, which will focus workplace inspections in areas of high transmission, including break rooms, and provide resource materials to employers and workers to promote safe behaviour before, during and after work.

The campaign targets workplaces with heightened risks that have been identified by using data from local public health units and information reported directly to the province. Inspectors will focus on workplaces in the following sectors:

- Workplaces with reported COVID-19 outbreaks
- Manufacturing
- Warehousing
- Distribution centres

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- Food processing
 - Publicly accessible workplaces deemed essential, such as grocery stores
 - Retail establishments, including big-box stores
 - Restaurants providing take-out meals
 - Essential service-sector establishments (such as gas stations); and
 - Farming operations

Ministry inspectors will also continue their focused onsite inspections at long-term care homes and retirement homes using a new data-sharing initiative with the Ministry of Long-Term Care and the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority.

Individuals and businesses that are not following the rules can be fined. The set fines are:

- \$750 for not following the rules;
- \$1,000 for preventing others (including employees or other workers) from following the rules.
- Maximum fines can be up to \$100,000 for individuals and \$10 million for a corporation.

Failure to follow the rules could also result in prosecution or even a year in jail.

9.7.3 City of Brantford Waives Parking Fees in the Market Centre Parkade Until February 28

For the month of February, the City will waive parking fees in the Market Centre Parkade. The move will help promote parking in the Market Centre Parkade while opening parking spots in the downtown core for curbside activities of local businesses. The following Parking services are still operational:

- The Parking office will remain open to process fines or ticket inquiries
- Security and Janitorial services at the Market Centre Parkade
- Paid parking in City Lots #3 and #4
- On-street parking by-laws City-wide will continue to be enforced by the City's Parking Enforcement Officers

9.7.4 New Online Booking Process for Harmony Square Skating Rink

Effective January 21, 2021 pre-registration is required to use the skating rink at Harmony Square in addition to the following measures:

- Online registration will open each Wednesday beginning January 20th at 7:00am for the following days & week (Monday-Sunday) at brantford.ca/RecConnect or call 519-756-9900 ext. 5294.
- Each time slot will be a 30-minute maximum and back-to-back time slots will not be permitted.
- Each skater including parents on the ice will be required to register separately.
- There will be a maximum of 10 people on the ice at all times.
- Daily registration for skate times will be cut-off at 8:00 a.m. Phone registrations must be completed one day in advance.
- Drop-in skaters will be permitted on a first come first serve basis if there is rink capacity available. All users are requested to pre-register so that contact tracing information is provided. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to avoid disappointment.

- If a registered rink user is not present 5 minutes following the start of their booking the spot will be given to a drop-in skater.
- Face coverings are strongly recommended for all skaters using the rink.
- Skaters must physically distance themselves 6ft/2m from each other, as per public health guidelines.

9.7.5 Emergency Operations Centre Advisory Committee Underlines Importance of Provincial Stay at Home Order

The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Advisory Committee, made up of organizations within The City of Brantford, The County of Brant and Six Nations of the Grand River, fully supports the necessity of the Province's stay at home order to slow community spread of COVID-19 and to protect our local healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed.

Report a COVID-19 Violation in the City of Brantford

To report a violation of a provincial order implemented to reduce the spread of Covid-19 in Brantford, citizens can visit brantford.ca/Covid-19violations and use the online reporting form or call the City's Customer Contact Centre at 519-759-4150. Please note that the Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) is responsible for enforcing Ontario Ministry of Health directives, such as non-compliance related to self-isolation or quarantine. To report a Covid-19 violation to the BCHU, please call 519-753-4937 and press '1'.

Brantford Police Services

Brantford Police asks residents to comply with current orders in place to protect the well-being of everyone in our communities. With respect to the new EMCPA order, individuals who do not comply can be issued a ticket for a set fine amount established by the Chief Justice or be served with a summons. While most individuals are making efforts to comply, enforcement will be aimed at those individuals who overtly and/or repeatedly put

others in danger in our community. The public is also reminded that 9-1-1 is to be used for emergency situations only.

9.7.6 The City of Brantford Allocates \$130,000 from the Social Services Relief Fund to Help Feed those in Need

The City serves as the social assistance and homelessness service provider for both the City and County. On January 20, 2021, The EOC approved the allocation of \$100,000 to the Food Bank and \$30,000 to the Salvation Army from the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF). The funds will be used to support local emergency food providers in continuing their efforts and expand home delivery options for City and County residents in need of emergency food as a result of COVID-19. The City will continue the ongoing partnerships with the Food Bank and Salvation Army to support emergency food services through to March 31st 2021, as part of the COVID-19 response plan.

Funding from the SSRF was used to support community food programs throughout 2020, with spring and fall allotments of \$130,000 that purchased approximately 755,819 pounds of food, and provided 521,505 meals. Additionally, the funding was used to support over 20 community food providers with food and supplies needed to sustain their meal programs.

9.7.7 The City of Brantford Using Discretion when Enforcing 24 Hour Parking

During the current stay at home order, the City will exercise a high level of discretion with respect to citizens parking their vehicles in excess of the current restriction of twenty-four (24) consecutive hours on City streets. All other on-street parking by-laws, including parking restrictions in the downtown core remain in effect.

Patrons are reminded to practice physical distancing by parking in alternating spots, when available. Parking enforcement in private lots registered with the City will continue to be enforced.

Citizens are encouraged to help do their part during winter snow events by parking vehicles off the street to allow for snow clearing operations, enabling snow clearing equipment to have the space needed to service the roadways, sidewalks and bicycle lanes safely and effectively.

10.0 Financial Implications

Financial implications associated with COVID-19 continue to be monitored and tracked by staff and will be reported on by the City's Finance department.

11.0 Conclusion

The EOC continues to monitor the pandemic closely and respond accordingly, keeping the safety and wellbeing of residents at the forefront.

Although local numbers have declined recently, multiple weeks of data is required to confidently forecast a downward trend in Covid-19 cases. Brantford residents are doing their part to reduce the spread of Covid-19 and demonstrating the important role that individuals have in the community to curb the spread of Covid-19. Provincial and Federal modelling emphasizes the importance of following public health measures such as physical distancing and adhering to provincial guidelines, such as limiting social gatherings and wearing face coverings in public indoor spaces. Modelling is a powerful tool, but human behavior is the primary factor that determines our case count. This is not the time to lose focus, with continued diligence; we are more likely to see a gradual decline in Covid-19 cases in Brantford and the surrounding areas in the future.

Vaccinations are critical to reducing the Covid-19 case count and the City of Brantford is fully prepared to support the roll out of vaccines. Vaccine supply determines the administration rate. Considering current supply, it is anticipated that vaccines will be available to the general public in the summer 2021.



Brian Hutchings
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Prepared By:

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Attachments

Appendix A: Update on Covid-19 Projections January 12

Appendix B: Federal Update on Covid-19 Projections January 15

Appendix C - Emergency Management and Operation Centre COVID-19 Response and Actions - Updated January 19

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required ☐ yes ☒ no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk ☐ yes ☒ no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? ☐ yes ☒ no