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**Date** September 28, 2021 **Report No.** 2021-611

**To** Mayor and Members of City Council

**From** Brian Hutchings  
Chief Administrative Officer

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## 1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item ☒ [x]  
Item For Consideration ☐ [ ]

**2.0 Topic** **CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 08.28.21 [Financial Impact: NONE]**

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## 3.0 Recommendation

A. THAT report 2021-611, titled CAO COVID-19 Emergency update 09.28.21  
BE RECEIVED

## 4.0 Executive Summary

The fourth wave of Covid-19 started in the beginning of August. Although case counts have not reached the levels of phase two or three, the local death rate suggests that the Delta Variant is much more serious compared to the original strain, especially in those that are unvaccinated.

Data suggests that case counts are beginning to stabilize in the Province. Vaccination rates continue to be an important metric that is closely monitored by health professionals. 85% of eligible residents in Ontario have received at least one dose and 79% have received two doses, which mirrors the national average. Canada continues to be among the global leaders in vaccination rates as 32% of the world's population is fully vaccinated.

The City of Brantford Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has actively been making decisions based on the provincial response framework.

The current Covid-19 Provincial modeling is available in *Appendix A: Covid19 Provincial Modelling 2021-09-01*.

## 5.0 Purpose and Overview

Report 2021-407 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 08.28.21 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).Corporate Policy Context.

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 2020-585 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 12.15.20
- Report 2021-40 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 01.12.21
- Report 2021-111 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 01.26.21

- Report 2021-135 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 02.09.21
- Report 2021-166 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 02.23.21
- Report 2021-254 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 03.23.21
- Report 2021-312 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 04.27.21
- Report 2021-407 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 05.25.21
- Report 2021-443 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 06.22.21
- Report 2021-535 CAO COVID-19 Emergency Update 08.24.21

## 7.0 Corporate Policy Context

Emergency Management

## 8.0 Input From Other Sources

Emergency Operations Committee

## 9.0 Analysis

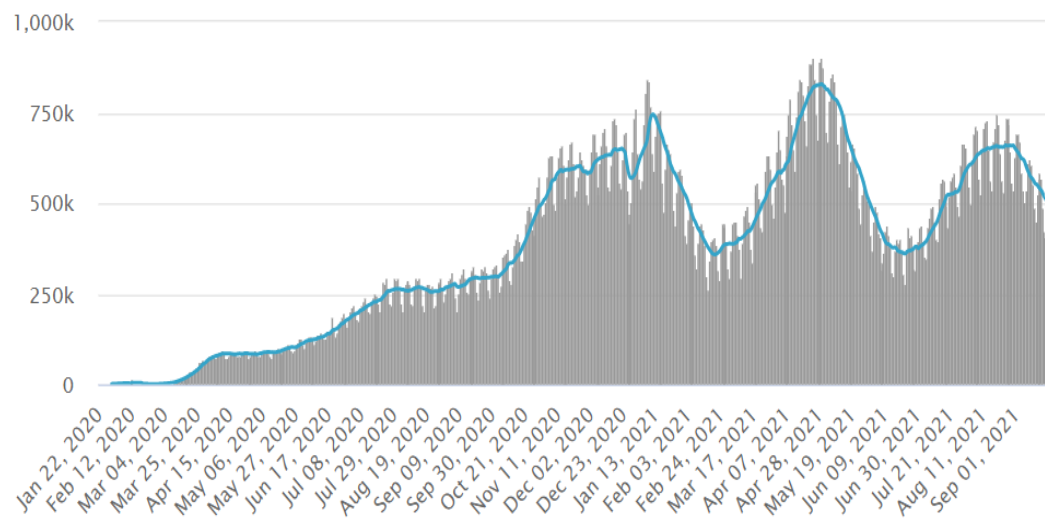
### 9.1 Covid-19 Case Counts (as of 09/21/21)

Phase Four Covid 19 cases have been increasing since the beginning of August across the country and the province. Global case count for the fourth wave peaked in mid-August and has been trending down since. Local cases have levelled off throughout the month of May, since peaking in mid-April.

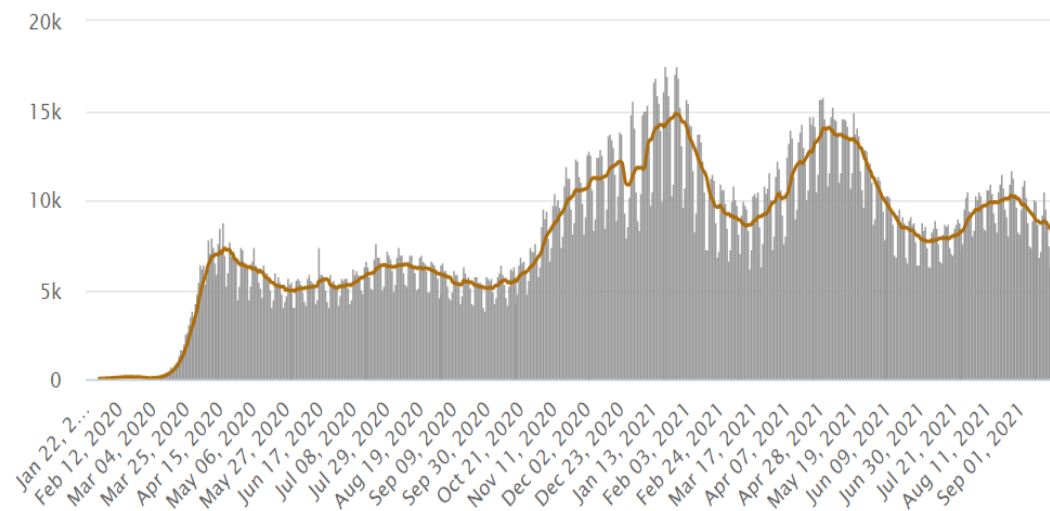
#### Global Case Count

Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered
230,266,737	4,721,546	206,991,284

Global Daily New Cases



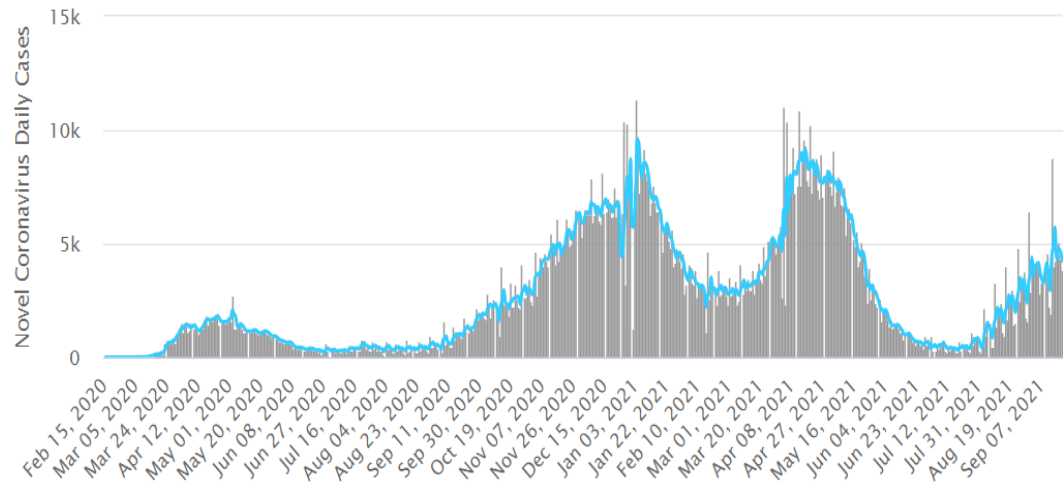
### Global Daily New Deaths



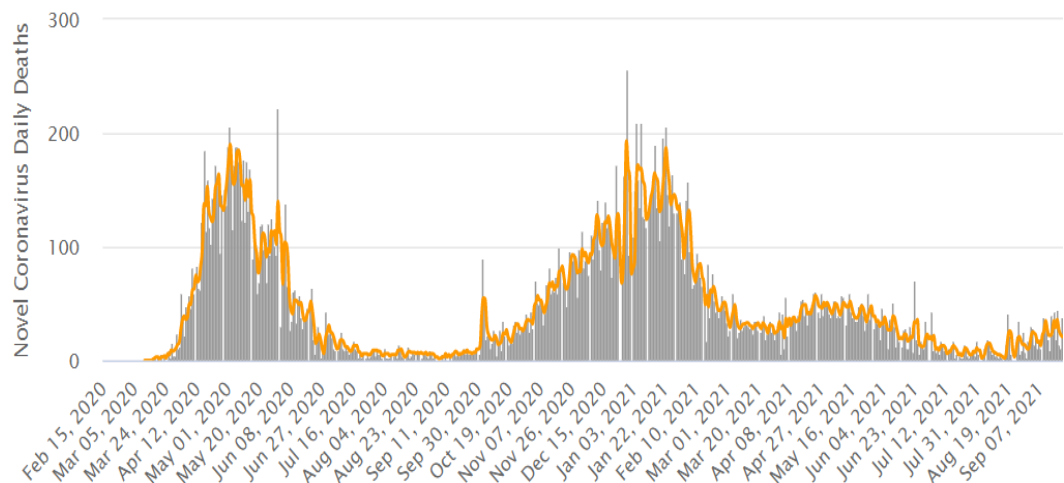
### National Case Count

Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Resolved
1,585,732	27,488	1,512,791

### National Daily Case Count



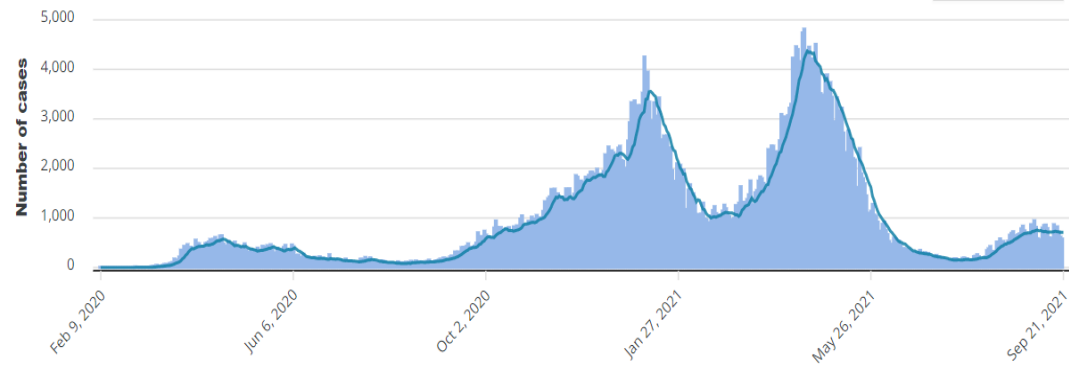
### National Daily Death Count



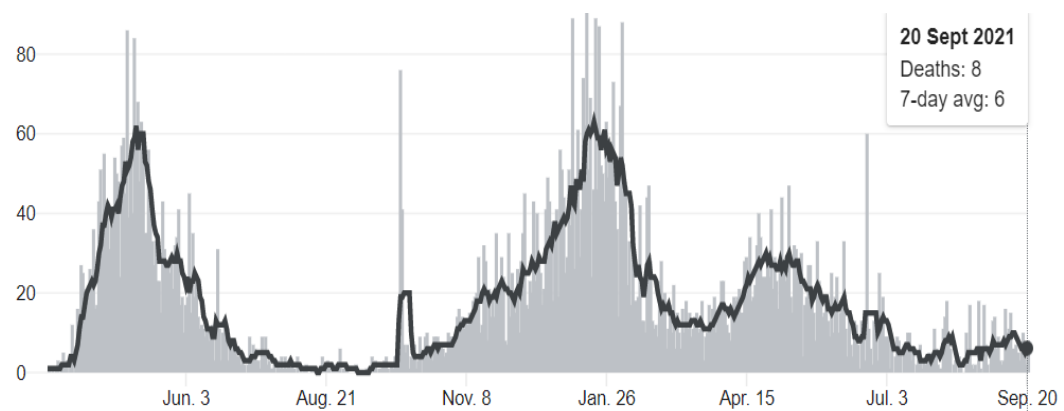
### Provincial Case Count

Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Resolved
513,102	8,506	479,630

### Provincial Daily Case Count



### Provincial Daily Death Count



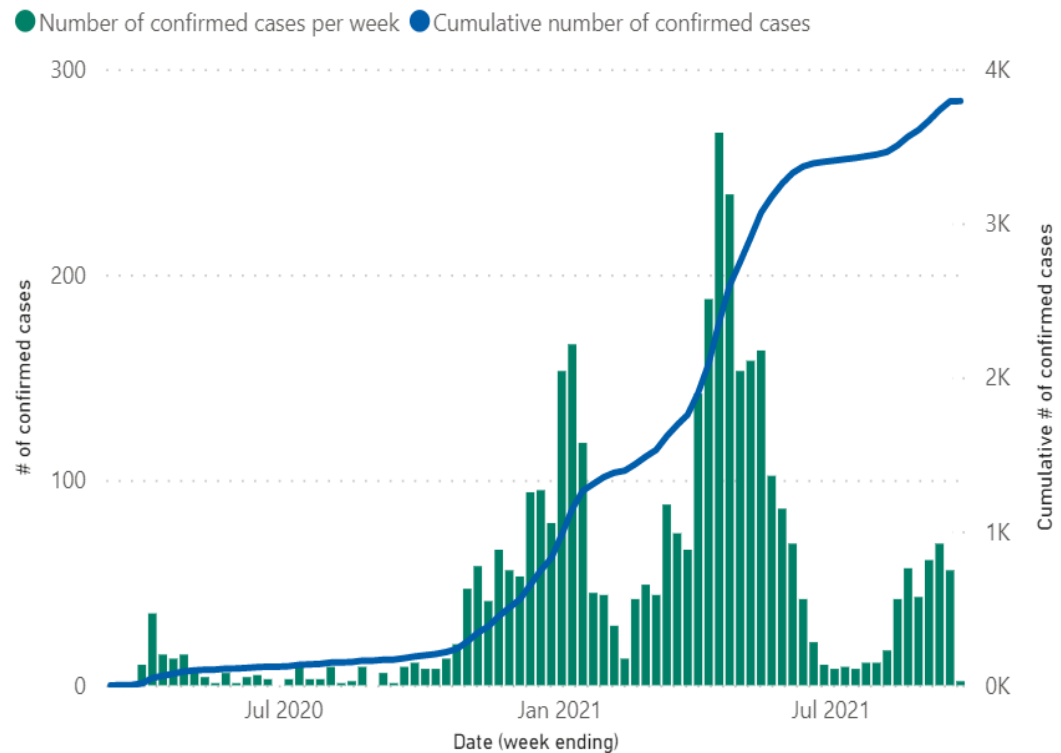
### Local Cases (as of February 16)

Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Resolved
3,792 (51 active)	29 (3 currently in hospital)	3,712

Over 30% of local deaths have occurred in the last four weeks.

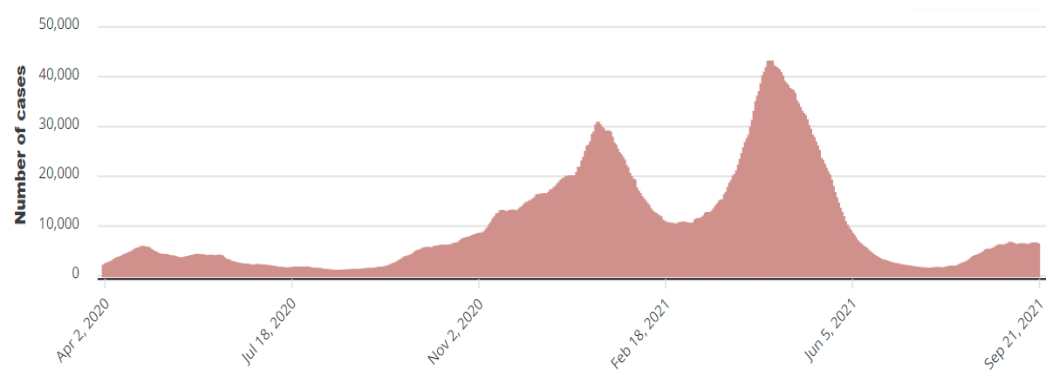
### Local Weekly Case Count & Cumulative Total

The average case count has been increasing since July. The weekly average in July was 9 cases, compared to 34 weekly cases in August and a weekly average of 62 new cases in September. However, case counts dropped in the last reporting week which suggests that active cases may be stabilizing.



## 9.2 Hospitalization Rates (as of 09/21/21)

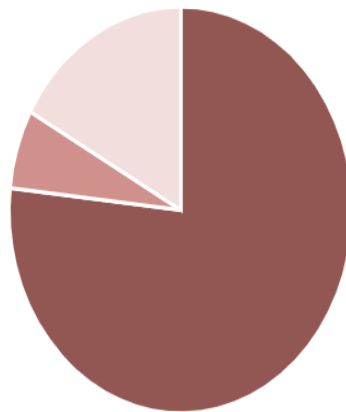
Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the healthcare system. Hospitalization rates and ICU rates are important indicators to measure to ensure that our system does not become overwhelmed.



Data shows that vaccination rates are helping hospitalization and ICU rates. Hospitalization rates peaked in April and have started to trend up with the increase in Covid-19 case count since the beginning of August.

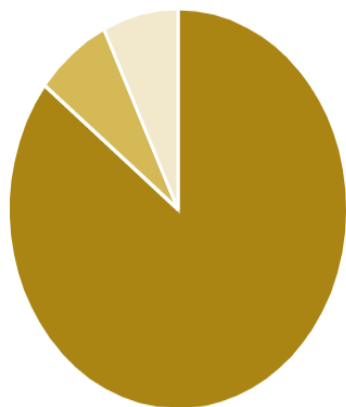


### In hospital but not the ICU



Unvaccinated	122
Partially vaccinated	10
Fully vaccinated	27

### In ICU

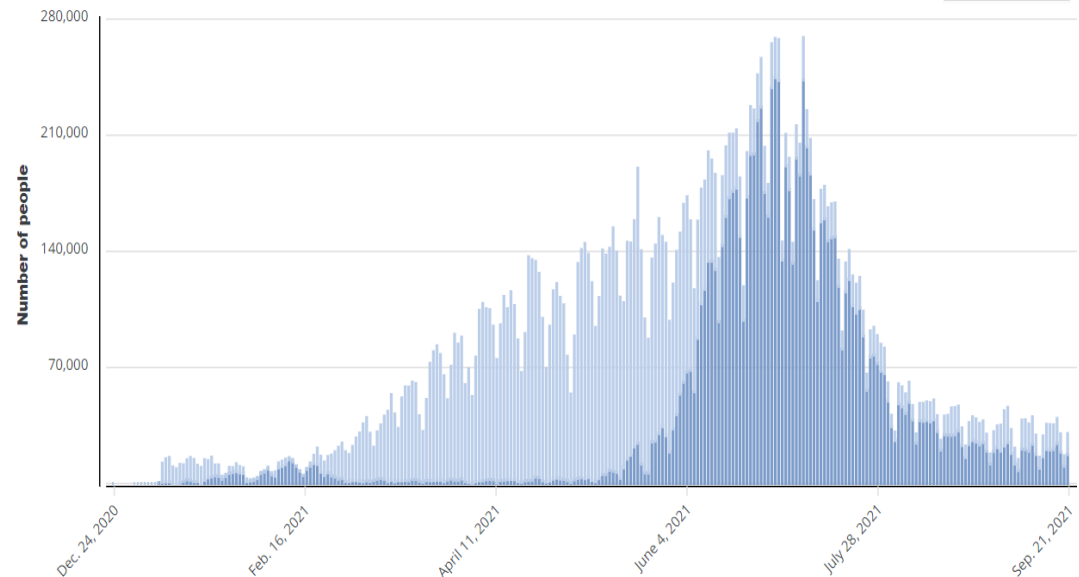


Unvaccinated	107
Partially vaccinated	9
Fully vaccinated	9

## 9.3 Vaccine Distribution (as of 09/21/21)

85% of eligible Canadians have received at least one dose and 79% with two doses. Ontario is tracking on par with the rest of the country with 85% of eligible residents having received at least one dose and 79% with two doses. In Brant/Brantford, 79% of eligible residents have received at least one dose and 73% have received two doses. In total, 219,337 vaccinations have been administered by the Brant County Health Unit (BCHU)

The graph below shows the Ontario's first dose (light blue bar) priority as the vaccination rollout began in the winter and the second dose (dark blue) bar through the summer.



Although average daily vaccination administration rates have been declining since the beginning of July, Ontario has experienced a 21% increase in first dose vaccination rates in September compared to the previous month. This increase is likely attributed to the Province deploying the Last Mile Strategy by introducing community based pop-up and mobile clinics targeting lower vaccination areas and the recent announcement of a vaccination certificate program.

Vaccination rates vary by age group as noted in the chart below.

Age	Number of people	Percentage of age group
80+	644,636	94.9%
70-79	1,087,686	93.8%
60-69	1,608,291	89.6%
50-59	1,681,168	81.6%
40-49	1,460,461	77.8%
30-39	1,500,359	73.0%
18-29	1,688,899	68.8%
12-17	653,019	68.6%

This variation in vaccine willingness could be a result of the vaccination roll out schedule and it may also be attributed to the vulnerability of the age group.

## 9.4 Local Outbreaks

There is currently one workplace outbreak at a local restaurant with two cases. Additionally, there are two local outbreaks at workplaces that do not serve the public.

## 9.5 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. As the province remains in shut down status, the EOC approved the following actions:

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**August 25:**

- EOC approves to use Doug Snooks, Woodman, Branlyn, TB Costain, and Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre (WGSC) for federal elections on September 20 and WGSC and Woodman for advanced polls
- EOC approves to resume in-person programming at Becket Adult Leisure Centre as of September 21 and Branlyn Community Center and Major Ballachey Hub Space as of October 4
- EOC approves the Aquatics/Fitness transition plan to offer drop-in recreational swimming, extend weight room hours, and begin planning fall children's programming
- EOC supports for meeting chairs to operate out of new City Hall in person

**September 8:**

- EOC approves to set locker room capacity based on Provincial capacity guidelines
- EOC approves to open up area programs (public skates, family skates, parent & child skates, adult skates, stick & puck, PD skates)
- EOC approves to open the indoor walking track
- EOC approves to discontinue the 2021-22 Snow/Leaf Buddies programs and continue with Neighbours Helping Neighbours program instead
- EOC approves to proceed with RecConnect Festivals & Events schedule
  - Brantford's International Jazz Festival Day
  - WTFest Day
  - Six Nations artists (September 30)
  - Scare in the Square (October 1-2)

- EOC approves to increase event capacity to 250 and eliminate on-site contact tracing and screening
- EOC approves the new City Hall Grand Opening with public tours, live band, and flag raising

**September 15:** A special meeting of the EOC was called to plan for the Provincial vaccination regulations taking effect on September 22, 2021

**September 20:** A special meeting of the EOC was called to prepare for the Provincial vaccination regulations taking effect on September 22, 2021

**September 22:**

- EOC endorses the re-opening of in-person Council and Committee meetings using a hybrid model, effective November 23
- EOC approves to continue City hosted virtual meetings, rather than indoor in-person meetings, aside from exceptional circumstances
- EOC approves to use the Ontario proof of vaccination screening form, rather than an internal form for public visitors
- EOC approves to acquire 20 new iPhones for the purposes of facilitating proof of vaccines
- EOC approves for Bylaw Enforcement to seek administrative support to help with administrative backlog until the end of 2021

On September 17, it was reported in the local media that the local Emergency Operations Advisory Group had been involved with the decision to cancel the 2021 Santa Clause Parade. While the JCI Santa Clause parade is not a City hosted event, the City does take an active role in providing support to the organizing group to implement event plans with the objective of ensuring public safety. With respect to the potential 2021 event, City staff advised the JCI organizing group that an event plan would be required to be submitted to the City. An event plan was not submitted and the 2021 Santa Clause Parade was not considered at the EOC.

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

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## **9.6 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.

## **9.7 Decisions Before Council**

There are no decisions before Council at this time

## **9.8 Provincial Policy Impacts**

### **9.8.1 Hospital Safe Zones**

On September 15<sup>th</sup> the EOC considered a declaration of the hospital entrance (s) as a safe zone. Upon review at the EOC, it was determined the City does not have legislative authority to declare the hospital as a safe zone.

### **9.8.2 City of Brantford Staff Vaccination Disclosure Standard Update**

The City has been working diligently to create a mandatory standard for staff to disclose vaccination status. The standard has been reviewed by Joint Health and Safety Committees and the Senior Leadership Team. It is anticipated that the standard will be communicated to staff in the near future and will take effect immediately following communication. In addition to the standard, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) have been captured to provide clarification on the standard.

### **9.8.3 City to Implement Provincial Vaccination Regulations Beginning September 22, 2021**

In accordance with Provincial regulations, beginning on September 22, patrons attending the City's recreational facilities and the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts will be required to show proof of being fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and identification before they can enter. Proof of a negative Covid-19 test result will not be accepted in place of proof of full vaccination.

Proof of vaccination exemptions include:

- 12 years of age, or younger
- 12-18 years of age and participating in a sport or recreational fitness activity, including the following; sports leagues, organized pick up, dance classes, martial arts, swimming classes
- Workers, contractors, repair workers, students, volunteers, coaches, officials, and other who are entering the facility for business purposes
- A patron who is entering for the sole purpose of; using a washroom, to access an outdoor area, to make a retail purchase, while placing or picking up an order, while paying for an order, to purchase admission, as well as for the purposes of health and safety
- Patrons who are attending a meeting space for the purpose of attending a wedding, rite, or ceremony for a funeral
- Patrons who provide written documentation, completed and supplied by a physician (designated MD) or by a registered nurse, nurse practitioner NP, stating that the individual is exempt for medical reasons. Patrons who are exempt for medical reasons are to provide ID and a written document stating the individual is exempt for medical reasons

Proof of vaccinations will be required for visitors to Brantford City Hall (58 Dalhousie St) if the purpose of the visit is a meeting with City staff that exceeds 15 minutes

Visitors attending 220 Colborne Street are only to do so to receive essential services and therefore proof of vaccination is not required.

## **10.0 Financial Implications**

Financial implications associated with COVID-19 continue to be monitored and tracked by staff and have been included in recent projections to the Finance Committee.

## **11.0 Conclusion**

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

Covid-19 case counts across the province have begun to stabilize as the fourth wave of Covid brought an increase of cases over the last two months. The increase in case counts resulted in the Province halting the reopening plans. The Delta Variant has been proven to be much more contagious and symptoms are more severe. This has been felt in the Brantford community as we have seen a significant increase in the local death rate over the last four weeks. Also of concern is that two of the members of our community that have passed were under the age of 50.

Vaccinations are proven to reduce the severity of Covid-19 symptoms, meaning those that are vaccinated are less likely to require a hospital stay. Vaccinations are critical to reducing the Covid-19 case count and the City of Brantford will continue to work with our community partners to support the roll out of vaccines. We will continue to urge residents to get vaccinated when possible, as Brant/Brantford is currently tracking slightly below Provincial vaccination rates based on local health unit data.

The City is implementing the Province's Proof of Vaccination regulations and has been working to introduce a staff standard for proof of vaccination to ensure the health and safety of City staff remains at the forefront.

The EOC continues to plan for further reopening to ensure the City of Brantford is fully prepared when the Province announces intentions to exit the roadmap.

  
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Brian Hutchings, Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared By:

Steve Babcock – Manager, Corporate Initiatives

Attachments (if applicable)

Appendix A: Covid-19 Provincial Modelling as of September 1, 2021

Appendix B: Emergency Management and Operations Centre COVID-19 Response and Actions



Copy to:

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