

From: allhealthunits
To: AllHealthUnits@lists.alphaweb.org
Subject: [allhealthunits] FW: CORRESPONDENCE: PPH Board of Health thanks for SAH Order Extension
Date: May 14, 2021 11:36:30 AM
Attachments: [210514 Premier Thanks SAH Extension ns.pdf](#)

ATTN: ONTARIO BOARDS OF HEALTH

From: Alida Gorizzan
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 11:15 AM
To: 'premier@ontario.ca' <premier@ontario.ca>
Cc: 'christine.elliott@pc.ola.org' <christine.elliott@pc.ola.org>; 'dave.smithco@pc.ola.org' <dave.smithco@pc.ola.org>; Dave Piccini (david.piccinico@pc.ola.org) <david.piccinico@pc.ola.org>; 'laurie.scottco@pc.ola.org' <laurie.scottco@pc.ola.org>; 'AudreyP@curvelake.ca' <AudreyP@curvelake.ca>; Trisha Shearer (hfnadministrator@hiawathafn.ca) <hfnadministrator@hiawathafn.ca>; John Kennedy (JKennedy@peterborough.ca) <JKennedy@peterborough.ca>; 'clerksoffice@ptbocounty.ca' <clerksoffice@ptbocounty.ca>; Rosana Salvaterra <rsalvaterra@peterboroughpublichealth.ca>; Andy Mitchell <amitchell@selwyntownship.ca>
Subject: CORRESPONDENCE: PPH Board of Health thanks for SAH Order Extension

Good morning,

Please see the attached correspondence, sent on behalf of the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health, regarding the above-noted matter.

Sincerely,
Alida Gorizzan

Alida Gorizzan

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Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Health
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Peterborough Public Health serves the residents of Curve Lake and Hiawatha First Nations, and the County and City of Peterborough.

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May 14, 2021

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford,

On behalf of the Peterborough board of health, I would like to share our appreciation and support for your decision to extend the current Stay-at-Home Order that was set to expire on May 19 until at least June 2, 2021. Your announcement yesterday has come as good news for our communities in Peterborough, where we have seen a much slower decline in the incidence of daily COVID-19 cases than with previous provincial lock downs.

Although we understand the sacrifices that are required by our local operators and businesses, it is critical that when we do emerge from this period, we are able to sustain any gains made. We continue to make great progress with our vaccination roll-out but we will not have achieved the critical mass of fully immunized individuals by June 2nd and we must rely on a continuation of public health measures to prevent a resurgence.

With this in mind, we would like to propose three priorities for provincial leadership in order to prepare for June 2nd and a successful transition to recovery over the summer months:

First, we request that the province articulate the parameters that need to be achieved in order for the order to be lifted or modified. This includes clearly specifying goals such as daily new cases, transmission rates, test positivity rate, hospitalization and ICU capacity that will indicate when it is safe to ease the current restrictions. Sticking to the health measures will be much easier if we have specific goals to work towards.

Second, we urge that lower-risk outdoor activities be permitted. Communities are exhausted and the science supports the outdoors as a safer setting for physical activities such as play and recreation. Surely we can allow sports, exercise, and similar activities that can be done in small numbers, allow for physical distancing and other public health measures like the wearing of masks where necessary. For many of these spaces, the missing ingredient is the required supervision to ensure appropriate use. This may be a target for enhanced provincial funding to allow municipalities to step in to fill this gap.

Third, we believe that part of the encouragement for people to get vaccinated is the provision of the rationale. In other words, the descriptions of what additional activities can or loosened restrictions fully vaccinated individuals can expect. Now is the time to provide guidelines of what a fully vaccinated person can do with another fully vaccinated person – whether that may be to hug, eat together, share a visit with a parent in long-term care. We encourage the Premier to accept the invitation from ALPHa, our provincial association of boards of health, for further input and advice on how best to ensure the success of Ontario's COVID-19 response as we move into the summer months.

The battle against COVID 19 and the management of the pandemic has highlighted the value of the partnership between public health and the government in protecting the health of Ontarians. As we move forward together to finish the job and as we consider the ongoing role of Public Health in a post-pandemic environment, we look forward to continuing the close collaboration with the government and other health care partners.

Once again, thank you, Premier, for taking action and communicating it clearly with us in a timely way.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Mayor Andy Mitchell
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
Dave Smith, MPP Peterborough-Kawartha
David Piccini, MPP Northumberland-Peterborough South
Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
Curve Lake First Nation Council
Hiawatha First Nation Council
Peterborough City Council
Peterborough County Council
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health