



Board Report

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101 17TH Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0A5

Phone: 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456

WEBSITE: www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Working with the Grey Bruce communities to protect and promote health

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Grey Bruce Influenza Bulletin

Disease surveillance and epidemiological analysis, including emerging trends and monitoring trends over time, is one of the *Infectious and Communicable Disease Prevention and Control* requirements outlined in the Ontario Public Health Standards.

At this time of year, influenza is one of the reportable diseases closely watched by the province and many health care partners. To support public reporting of influenza activity, a weekly bulletin is posted on the GBHU website. The bulletin describes the last week’s influenza activity and trends specific to Grey Bruce.



<https://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/Your-Health/Infectious-Diseases/Professional-Resources>

Created during the 2018-2019 influenza season to enhance public reporting of influenza activity and as a quality improvement initiative, the bulletin streamlined the reporting required by Public Health Ontario. This resulted in improved data entry, consistent messaging and fewer inquiries from media, Public Health Ontario, and hospital Infection Control Professionals. From December to May, there were over 670 external visits to the bulletin.

The bulletin requires only 2 data inputs: the first, a custom report shared to the Grey Bruce folder on iPHIS (Integrated Public Health Information System); the second, an ED Visit influenza trend from the ACES (Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance Application). Once data is imported, a refresh populates all of the fields. This new work adds value by allowing the public, health care providers and the media easy access to information on influenza activity via the website rather than a direct inquiry. It provides consistent and clear messaging, helping us to better meet the Infectious Disease requirements as well as the Reporting and Knowledge Exchange requirements of the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2018.

The process is efficient, requiring under half an hour of staff time weekly to generate the report, validate content, correct errors and upload to the website.

Local Strategy Highlighted at Pan-Canadian Health in All Policies Summit

The Grey Bruce Health Unit's Health in All Policies (HiAP) strategy was recently profiled at the Pan-Canadian Health in All Policies Summit in Quebec City. The summit, which included representatives from governments and diverse NGOs, examined Canadian HiAP initiatives, supporting HiAP practice and issues specific to the Indigenous context.

The World Health Organization defines Health in All Policies as "an approach to public policies across sectors that systematically takes into account the health implications of decisions, seeks synergies, and avoids harmful health impacts, in order to improve population health and health equity." HiAP can be implemented at the federal, provincial, territorial, regional and local government levels.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit promotes the key role municipalities play in creating policies that positively impact health. Municipal leaders lay the foundation for safe, inclusive and healthy communities when they focus on Health Equity, the Social Determinants of Health and Healthy Public Policy.

Originally launched as Operation Safe, Strong and Clean, the pilot project with the City of Owen Sound fostered a goal of supporting healthy community development through collaborative action. Public Health staff continue to meet regularly with municipal and county staff as part of the municipal alignment strategy. This work supports the five building blocks of the Healthy Community Approach including community engagement, multi-sectoral collaboration, political commitment, asset based community development and healthy public policy.

The period surrounding an election has been identified as an opportunity to share knowledge with key stakeholders, including candidates, about Health in All Policies. This was undertaken in two local elections; most recently during the 2018 municipal election. A survey of elected officials was undertaken this past fall to evaluate the impact of the campaign materials. Findings from this evaluation will help inform next steps.

As a result of the Pan-Canadian Summit, the Grey Bruce Health Unit has initiated consultation with representatives from the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority to share lessons and learnings. In addition, Public Health will continue to work with the National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy to explore HiAP implementation at the local level.