



PROGRAM REPORT NOVEMBER 2019

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Working with the Grey Bruce communities to protect and promote health

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Food Safety Courses

Since July 2018, Food Premises Regulations require a minimum of one certified food handler in every food service premises while in operation. This includes restaurants, grocery stores, community centres, churches, special events and fairs.

Online food handler certification courses are offered through Ministry of Health approved third party companies. Courses are taught in English and require a computer with internet access.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit offers in-person courses. Responding to the surge in demand, Public Health Inspectors offered additional food handler certification courses in 2018 and 2019, with 35 courses to date. To increase access, courses have been delivered at the Grey Bruce Health Unit building in Owen Sound, Bruce County administrative building in Walkerton and various food businesses across the two counties.

The requirements of two priority populations, Plainclothes Anabaptist and Chinese speaking, were addressed with courses specific to their needs. Barriers to accessing a food handler certification course for these communities include lack of access to a computer/internet, transportation to a course and language instruction. Certification courses were designed and delivered to each group as appropriate to their cultural and language needs.

Ontario Senior Dental Care Program

The first outline of the new Ontario Senior Dental Care Program (OSDCP) came in a teleconference in May this year. As yet, there is no confirmed start date.

The program looks to provide basic dental services to:

- Resident of Ontario age 65 and older
- Income of \$19,300 or less for individual; or combined income of \$32,300 or less for a couple
- Clients have no other forms of dental benefits (e.g. private insurance or other government program)

We are looking to operationalize in stages over the next two years.

Stage 1 will use our current infrastructure to deliver preventive and limited restorative services using existing sites and staff compliment.

Stage 2 will enhance the initial program delivery. Our capital application asks for significant improvements to the Owen Sound clinic, Markdale South East Grey Community Health Centre, and to build a new operatory in Walkerton using new leased space. These three sites will provide both preventive and restorative services.

We look to serve the community of Bruce and Grey Counties by offering regular preventive clinics for cleaning and scaling of teeth in partnership with the South East Grey Community Health Centre, Wiarton Salvation Army, the County of Bruce, as well as restorative services in Owen Sound, Markdale and Walkerton. A partnership with Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC) supports client access to services. We will enhance our current Wiarton and Walkerton clinic locations and equipment to ensure adequate and safe access for the senior population.

To support the program, we are moving to a new online medical record system.

Along with new digital tools, we will recruit two new full time staff, a dental hygienist and a dental health educator, and a contracted dentists to provide services. Letters have been sent to dentists seeking to engage in contracted services.