



BRANT COUNTY HEALTH UNIT

Annual Report 2021

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Message from Chief Executive Officer



Dr. Jo Ann Tober
Chief Executive Officer

During 2021, the Brant County Health Unit was at the forefront of our community's response to COVID-19. From the early stages of our immunization planning to the growth of our vaccination campaign involving mobile strategies and administering booster doses, BCHU worked hard to expand COVID-19 outreach within the community. Health Unit staff contacted and supported individuals who contracted COVID-19 during multiple waves of the pandemic, managed a significant number of outbreaks in various settings in the community, modified and expanded our immunization clinics to keep pace with vaccine availability and eligible populations, and kept the community informed via media and our website.

At every turn, our teams have worked diligently to adapt to emerging information, while providing excellent support to our residents, businesses, and organizations in order to protect the health of the Brant community.

As we navigate the next phase of the pandemic, the Health Unit will maintain our response to the ever-changing demands of COVID-19 as we resume and expand core public health services and programming.

Our staff will continue to strive to provide excellent public health services to meet the needs of our community. I would like to thank each of our talented MOHs, Dr. Urbantke, Dr. Lock, and Dr. Comley and the entire BCHU team for their extraordinary efforts throughout 2021.

Dr. Jo Ann Tober
Chief Executive Officer

Message from Acting Medical Officer of Health



Dr. Rebecca Comley
Acting Medical Officer
of Health

After witnessing BCHU's hard work and dedication to the community throughout another challenging year, I was proud to join the Health Unit as Acting Medical Officer of Health. I would like to thank my predecessors Dr. Urbantke and Dr. Lock for their leadership and commitment to the Brant community throughout 2021.

The health and well-being of our community has always been at the forefront of our day-to-day activities through our pandemic response. Looking back on the year, I'm reminded of all the preparation and efforts that went into organizing various strategies to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 in the community.

I extend my sincerest thanks to BCHU staff, residents of Brant, partners at the City of Brantford and County of Brant; local community agencies, hospitals and broader healthcare settings, as well as our local businesses for their dedication to public health measures, even when it was difficult.

I am proud of the way our community has continued to support one another; together we are stronger.

Dr. Rebecca Comley
Acting Medical Officer of Health

Roles

The Brant County Health Unit is one of 34 health units in Ontario that serves a population of more than 148,000 people in Brant County and the City of Brantford.

Formed in 1945, the Health Unit employs more than 100 employees led by a Board of Health, Medical Officer of Health, and Chief Executive Officer. The Health Unit strives to deliver high quality programs and services to address the unique health needs of our community and improve the health and well-being of our population.

We collaborate with other organizations including government, police, schools, and community agencies. Together we combine our expertise to plan and deliver programs and services in our community. Our partners are also vital in helping to reach our priority populations.

Our Mission

We provide health promotion, protection, and disease prevention programs and services designed to help all members of the community achieve and maintain optimal health and well-being.

Our Vision

We strive to provide excellence in public health, exemplifying the spirit of innovation, quality, and collaboration.



Practicing Good Governance

In Ontario, each health unit is governed by a Board of Health in accordance with the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

The Brant County Health Unit's Board of Health is made up of two representatives from the County of Brant, three representatives from the City of Brantford, and four representatives appointed by the Province of Ontario.

Processes

Public health staff, including nurses, inspectors, dental and nutrition staff, epidemiologists, health planners, health promoters, and support staff deliver the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Staff collaborate with community partners and deliver health promotion, disease prevention and health protection services through a variety of individual and population-based strategies.

These strategies include, but are not limited to, home visits, inspections, policy development, social marketing, clinic services, community development, and health education.

2021 Board of Health Members



**Councillor John Bell,
Chair**
County Council
Appointee



**Susan Brown,
Vice-Chair**
Provincial Appointee



Nancy Church
Provincial Appointee



Michael Bodnar
Provincial Appointee



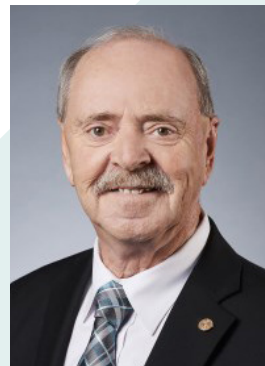
Mayor David Bailey
County Council
Appointee



Mayor Kevin Davis
City Council Appointee



**Councillor Brian
Van Tilborg**
City Council Appointee



Councillor John Sless
City Council Appointee



Joy O'Donnell
Provincial Appointee

Programs

Foundational Standards

- Population Health Assessment
- Research, Evaluation & Knowledge Exchange
- Communications
- Quality Assurance & Continuous Quality Improvement
- Emergency Management



Clinic Services

- Sexual Health, Tobacco Cessation, Tuberculosis testing
- Immunization
- Oral Health
- School Surveillance (Dental, Vision)

Healthy Growth & Development

- Healthy Pregnancy
- Growth & Development
- Healthy Babies Healthy Children
- Positive Parenting

Substance Use & Healthy Schools

- Alcohol & Substance Misuse
- Comprehensive School Health
- Smoke Free Program
- Harm Reduction



Chronic Disease Prevention & Injury Prevention

- Health Equity
- Healthy Living
- Mental Health
- Youth Wellness
- Injury Prevention

Environmental Health & Infectious Diseases

- Infectious Disease Management
- Healthy Environments
- Food Safety
- Safe Water
- Infection Prevention & Control

Financial Indicators

In 2021, the Health Unit continued to respond to the pandemic and supported the province in the rollout of the vaccine program, while maintaining critical public health programs and services. One time funding was provided to support extraordinary costs over and above those that could be managed within the mandatory cost shared program budget.

2021 Operating Revenues (in Millions)

Ministry of Health Funding	\$12.64
Municipal Funding	\$3.78
Other Funding Sources	\$1.38
Total:	\$17.80

2021 Operating Expenses (in Millions)

Salaries and Wages (see breakdown below)	\$10.76
Employee Benefits	\$2.42
Program and Other Supplies	\$1.58
Building and IT Equipment	\$0.89
Amortization and Other	\$0.30
Total:	\$15.95

Salaries and Wages (in Millions)

Chronic Disease Prevention & Injury Prevention	\$0.30
Substance Use & Healthy Schools	\$1.00
Environment Health & Infectious Diseases	\$0.91
Clinic Services	\$0.91
Foundational Standards	\$0.27
Healthy Growth & Development	\$0.96
Corporate Services	\$1.18
COVID Response and Vaccine Rollout	\$5.23
Total:	\$10.76

2021 Program indicators

Environmental Health

70%

high-risk food premises inspected*

135

re-inspections completed in premises where regulatory infractions were noted

62

food safety complaints received and investigated

55

individuals certified in safe food-handling practices

109

health hazard complaints received and responded to

7

cold and heat alerts issued

1,253

private water samples submitted by homeowners

* Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some food establishments were closed and, therefore, not available for routine food safety inspection in 2021

Harm Reduction

7,647

naloxone kits distributed across the community by the Health Unit, local pharmacies and community agencies

2,335

client visits to the Needle Exchange sites

215,287

needles distributed through the Needle Exchange sites

72%

of used needles were retrieved across the community



Infectious Disease

311

confirmed cases of chlamydia reported and managed

34

confirmed respiratory outbreaks (including COVID-19 related) managed in long-term care homes, retirement homes and hospitals

443

rabies exposure investigated



Healthy Growth and Development

296

people enrolled in the on-line prenatal courses/classes

88.6%

of new mothers received a Healthy Babies, Healthy Children screen

62.3%

of new mothers identified with risk of negative development outcomes for children

1,343

families supported during the year; staff addressed parents' inquiries, informed about and referred to community services and resources

2,710

phone, video and written interactions held with families

Chronic Disease Prevention, School Health

- Supported food security initiatives in collaboration with community partners — St. Andrew's Church, Friendship House
- Provided resources to seniors' buildings (puzzles, games, crosswords)
- Delivered virtual sessions to the general public on various health topics in partnership with the Brantford Public Library
- Coordinated school case and outbreak management
- Provided COVID-19 related resources and information to students and teachers
- Worked with schools to prioritize and address health issues impacting students— mental health, sexual health, tobacco, vaping

Smoke-Free Ontario Act, Enforcement

100%

of tobacco and e-cigarette vendors inspected under the Smoke Free Ontario Act

100%

of tobacco vendors in compliance with tobacco display, handling and promotion regulation

100%

of e-cigarette retailers in compliance with the Electronic Cigarette Act

Clinic Services

87

routine and catch-up school-based clinics held

61%

of 7-8 year old students had up to date immunizations against ISPA-designated diseases

69%

of 16-17 year old students had up to date immunizations against ISPA-designated diseases

100%

of refrigerators storing publicly funded vaccines received a routine annual inspection

< 5%

of HPV, Influenza and MMR vaccine wasted

193

client visits to the sexual health clinic

922

client visits to the dental health clinic

COVID-19

4,832

COVID-19 positive cases reported and managed

252

complaints received and addressed, 15 warnings issued under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act

233,524

COVID-19 vaccinations completed through mass, mobile, pop-up and school-based clinics in the community



Learn More


For more information about this report or any of our programs and services please contact:


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www.bchu.org

 **Twitter:** @BrantHealthUnit

 **Facebook:** @branthealthunit

 **Instagram:** branthealthunit

**BRANT COUNTY
HEALTH UNIT**