

**BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR AGENDA  
Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 9:30 a.m, Virtual**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

*Chair John Bell*

**2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**3. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA / Motion to APPROVE AGENDA**

**4. DELEGATION**

**5. ELECTIONS**

**5.1** Elect Chair

**5.2** Elect Vice-Chair

**5.3** Motion re Signing Officers

**5.4** Membership on Board of Health Finance and Audit Committee

**6. INCAMERA**

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**7.1** Motion to approve Brant County Board of Health Minutes of November 17, 2021 \*

*All*

**8. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**8.1** 2021 Overtime Hours \*

**8.2** Motion re Appointment of Auditors

*Lisa DiDonato*

*Lisa DiDonato*

Motion to accept reports as presented.

**9. STANDING REPORTS & BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**9.1** Report from the Chair

**9.2** Report from the Medical Officer of Health \*

**9.3** Report from the Chief Executive Officer \*

**9.4** Food Safety Disclosure Report

**9.5** COVID-19 Reports

**9.5.1** COVID-19 Case Management Report \*

**9.5.2** COVID-19 Immunization Report \*

**9.6** Strategic Planning

*Chair*

*Dr. Rebecca Comley*

*Jo Ann Tober*

*No report*

*Dr. Rebecca Comley*

*Jo Ann Tober*

*John Bell*

Motion to accept reports as presented.

**10. NEW BUSINESS & PROGRAM REPORTS**

- 10.1** Board of Health Policy: COVID-19 Immunization \*
- 10.2** Provincial Appointee Re-Appointments
- 10.3** Annual Signatures for Declaration of Confidentiality, Conflict of Interest Declaration, and Code of Conduct Declaration

*Brent Richardson  
John Bell*

*Jo Ann Tober*

Motion to accept reports as presented.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE** *(Board members may request a copy of items that are not attached from Board of Health Secretary)*

- 11.1** Correspondence from Algoma Public Health, dated November 16, 2021, re Annualized IPAC Hub Funding and Increase in Provincial Base Funding for Local Public Health.
- 11.2** Correspondence from Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, dated November 18, 2021, re vision services for patients under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan.
- 11.3** Correspondence from Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, dated November 23, 2021, re amendment of the Immunization of School Pupils Act.
- 11.4** Correspondence to the Ministry of Health, dated January 4, 2022, re public appointee re-appointments.
- 11.5** Correspondence from Millards, dated December 7, 2021, re 2021 financial audit engagement letter.

Motion to receive the correspondence.

**12. QUESTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS****13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS****14. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair*

\* *Attachments*  
⊕ *to be distributed at the meeting*

\*\**Attachments for Board of Health members only*

**BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING of January 19, 2022**  
**REPORT #: 8.1**

**FROM:** Lisa DiDonato, Director, Finance  
**REPORT DATE:** January 8, 2022  
**RE:** 2021 Overtime Hours

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Since the start of the global pandemic, Brant County Health Unit personnel have been redeployed to monitor, detect, and contain COVID-19, while continuing to maintain critical public health programs and services.

During peak immunization periods, the Health Unit has employed a number of temporary contract employees to support the vaccine program, mitigating the need for overtime hours while providing time off relief for permanent employees.

From January 1 to December 31, 2021, the Health Unit unionized staff incurred 786 overtime hours including statutory holidays at 1.5 x hourly rate and 1,420 excess regular hours at 1.0 x hourly rate for a total cost of approximately \$105,584. Ministry extraordinary one-time funding will be sufficient to support these incremental staffing costs.

**BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING on January 19, 2022**  
**REPORT #: 9.2**

**FROM:** Dr. Rebecca Comley, Acting Medical Officer of Health  
**REPORT DATE:** January 13, 2022  
**RE:** Medical Officer of Health's Report  
for the period November 18, 2021 to January 17, 2022

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**Fall Forum – November 29-30**

- **Round Table discussion with community partners re: priorities of drug strategy moving forward.**

**Emergency Management**

- Ongoing meetings with Emergency Management partners through Emergency Operations Centre.

**Community Partnerships**

- Collaboration with Primary Care Council
  - Vaccination efforts
- Presentation to Rotary Club Sunrise Meeting – December 2021.

**Training/ Continuing Education**

- Media training – Warren Weeks; completed orientation
- Weekly mentorship – Dr. Joyce Lock
- Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA Fall Symposium – November 19, 2021

**Infectious Diseases**

- Worked with Infectious Diseases Team to review Tuberculosis protocols.

**BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING of January 19, 2022**  
**REPORT #: 9.3**

**FROM:** Jo Ann Tober, Chief Executive Officer  
**REPORT DATE:** January 12, 2022  
**RE:** Chief Executive Officer Report

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**Brantford Brant Ontario Health Team (BBOHT) Update**

On Monday December 13, 2021, a joint Board Meeting for the Board representatives of the BBOHT was held. Discussions included oversight of performance and financial management, strategic planning and the roll of governance, and joint board development. Board members also received updates on Ministry direction to work with the Norfolk OHT. The most recent BBOHT Newsletter outlining recent OHT activities is attached for information.

The BBOHT is currently meeting on a weekly basis to monitor the COVID pandemic response and impacts on the local health system partners and to coordinate responses where possible. Many OHT partners are currently experiencing severe Health Human Resources challenges due to staff absences and outbreaks.

**City Budget Presentation**

The Brant County Health Unit is scheduled to present the 2022 budget on Monday January 31. The budget summary information and presentation have been submitted to City staff.

**COVID-19 Response**

The significant number of cases of COVID -19 which have been reported in the last few weeks and the recent wide expansion of eligibility for COVID vaccine have placed significant demands on Health Unit resources. Staff have been redeployed to address COVID – 19 demands.

# BBOHT BUZZ

The official Brantford Brant OHT newsletter



## *DIGITAL HEALTH JOB OPENINGS*

The BBOHT Digital Health Team is excited to announce that they are in the process of recruiting two new positions to support the ramp-up and delivery of the various digital health initiatives (planned and/or underway) within the Brantford and Brant Community. There are currently now two open positions: Project Manager, Digital Health and Change Management specialist. These positions will play a key role in the successful

implementation and adoption of our ongoing digital health projects.

The ideal candidates for both positions will have 3+ years of experience in the Healthcare or eHealth field and a post-secondary degree in Health, Information Technology, IT Management or equivalent. If you know someone who would be a good candidate for these positions please have them apply by sending their resume to [contact@brantoht.ca](mailto:contact@brantoht.ca) or visit our LinkedIn page for more information.

### **In this issue**

*Digital Health job openings*

*PWLE recruitment*

*eReferral Rollout*

*COVID-19 Assessment Centre Update*

*Vaccine & flu shot outreach*



**BRANTFORD BRANT**  
ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM





## *PWLE GROUP RECRUITMENT*

The Brantford Brant OHT is looking to increase their network of People With Lived Experience (PWLE) to be a contributing voice in our community. The goal of this network is to guide discussions from the perspectives of those who use the services and can have a meaningful impact on how our local healthcare will be delivered. In particular the PWLE group is seeking people to participate in working groups with experiences in the following systems:

- Mental Health and Addictions
- Homelessness
- Dementia/Alzheimers
- Home and Community Care
- Palliative Care

If you or someone you know would be a good fit for this workgroup visit our website at [brantoh.ca](http://brantoh.ca) and fill out the expression of interest or email [contact@brantoh.ca](mailto:contact@brantoh.ca).

*"The best way to improve our healthcare system is to build it in partnership with the people who use these services"*

PWLE WORKGROUP



# *E-REFERRAL PILOT MAKES PROGRESS*

Progress continues this month with the OCEAN eReferral pilot projects between the BGH Emergency Department and St. Paul's Clinic, as well as BGH Diagnostic Imaging. As these pilot projects continue to advance over the next few months, the focus will shift to further expanding the roll-out of OCEAN eReferral to even more Brantford health providers. The implementation and adoption of OCEAN eReferral is led by the eHealth Center of Excellent (eCE) and is 100% funded by the Ministry of Health! The BBOHT Digital Health Team in conjunction with the eCE will be scheduling OCEAN eReferral Demos and Q&A sessions for individual workgroups and organizations within the BBOHT. These demos will offer a glimpse into what the program has to offer our community partners, as well as to explore functionality and identify any barriers to success within the rollout plan.

The OCEAN information sessions come on the heels of a successful Digital Health Week (Nov 29 - Dec 5) where the BBOHT broadcast their digital health initiatives on social media. The main area of focus for Digital Health Week was the need for increased technology in the healthcare system in order to keep up in our rapidly evolving world. As implementation of OCEAN eReferral has been very slow in Brantford Brant, relative to other areas of the province, there is an enormous opportunity to quickly advance implementation and adoption.

The hope of the BBOHT Digital Health team is that the successful implementation of eReferral platforms such as OCEAN will help improve patient outcomes and ultimately the patient, and health provider experience in Brantford and Brant County.



# *PEDIATRIC ASSESSMENT CENTRE UPDATE*

The Brantford Pediatric COVID-19 Assessment Centre is now fully operational at the site of the existing Brantford COVID-19 Assessment Centre (79 Market Street S). This clinic provides a convenient and safe option for children and their families who may require a COVID test as well as physician support in managing mild viral symptoms.

The clinic has been fully operation now for six weeks and sees an average 5-6 patients per day, 7 days per week. This has been very helpful in alleviating pressure on primary care and Emergency Departments to see those who may otherwise be left without appointments due to COVID-19 screening protocols.



# *FLU SHOT & COVID VACCINE OUTREACH*

The BBOHT Homelessness Team is working with community partners to increase the availability of COVID-19 vaccines (first and second doses) and influenza vaccines for those in our community experiencing homelessness. An outreach response is being implemented to extend vaccination services into the community where homeless clientele typically access other services such as meal programs and outreach support. The Brantford Downtown Outreach Team (St. Leonard's Community Services and Grand River Community Health Centre), Brantford EMS and the Brant County Health Unit are working to offer vaccines via mobile clinics in January. Health cards will be recommended but not required. Additional outreach services will be provided, including primary care services and winter warmth support.



**BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING of January 19, 2022**  
**REPORT #: 9.5.1**

**FROM:** Dr. Rebecca Comley, Acting Medical Officer of Health  
**REPORT DATE:** January 13, 2022  
**RE:** COVID-19 Case Management Report  
for the period November 18, 2021 to January 18, 2022

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**Schools Outbreak Management**

- Outbreak management
  - School closure/reopening
- Advised school boards re: activities in school, events, etc.
- Integrated Rapid Antigen Testing into School Strategy
  - Advised other health units on RAT integration.

**Omicron**

- Drafted and consulted on instituting public health measures should they be necessary locally
- Advised municipalities on the new information and impact on holiday events
- Critical Health Human Resources Management
  - Helped to develop test-to-work strategies for multiple essential services.

**Long-Term Care/Hospital Outbreak Management**

- Provided support for decisions regarding critical Human Resources challenges
- Drafted working recommendations to facilitate transfer in the setting of multiple outbreaks
- Liaised with hospital Infectious Diseases Team to adjust outbreak management and improve capacity.

**Communications**

- Media communication regarding public health measures, vaccination of children aged 5-11, booster call-to arms, Omicron and its implications
- Public messaging around recommendations necessity for public health measures
- Updating public information on website.

**BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH Meeting of January 19, 2022**  
**REPORT #: 9.5.2**

**FROM: Jo Ann Tober, Chief Executive Officer**  
**REPORT DATE: January 12, 2022**  
**RE: COVID Immunization Report**

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The COVID-19 immunization program has been extremely busy as vaccine clinics have been ramped up to the extent of Health Unit staffing capacity.

The number of groups eligible for booster doses has been expanded over the last few weeks and now includes the following populations:

- Children 5 to 11 years of age are eligible to receive their first doses and second doses after a recommended interval of eight weeks of the recently-approved pediatric Pfizer vaccine. These children are not yet eligible for booster doses.
- Youth 12 to 17 years of age are also eligible for their first and second doses at the same interval with the approved adult Pfizer vaccine. They are also not yet eligible for booster doses.
- Adults 18+ years of age are now eligible for their third dose of vaccine or booster dose at a recommended minimum interval of 3 months following their second dose.
- Fourth doses have also been recommended for all residents of Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Elder Care Lodges and other congregate settings for seniors. Fourth doses are also recommended for some specific immunocompromised populations.
- Children less than 5 years of age are currently not eligible for immunization as vaccines for these children have not yet been approved.

To facilitate access for local residents, walk-ins are accepted for all first and second doses including for children and youth. Additional walk-in clinics have been provided for those local residents who are 60+ years of age. Walk-in clinics will also be held for additional groups such as lower-age bands and higher-risk or vulnerable groups such as pregnant women. Special clinics were also held for local education and day care staff. Future mobile clinics are being planned for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes.

Up-to-date coverage information will be provided at meeting

**BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING of January 19, 2022**  
**REPORT #: 10.1**

**FROM: Brent Richardson, Director, Human Resources**  
**REPORT DATE: January 11, 2022**  
**RE: Board of Health Policy: COVID-19 Immunization**

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Attached for Board of Health consideration is a draft policy and procedure for “COVID-19 Immunization – Requirements for Board of Health Members”.

**BRANT COUNTY HEALTH UNIT  
ADMINISTRATION MANUAL  
POLICY**

<b>Category:</b> Board of Health	<b>Number:</b> III-170
<b>Approved/Issued by:</b> _____	<b>Page:</b> 1 of 1
<b>Board of Health</b>	<b>Date:</b> January 2022
<b>Distribution:</b> Administration Manual	<b>Revision Date:</b>

**COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION – REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEMBERS**

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Brant County Health Unit Board of Health Members are required to be fully immunized against COVID-19 as representatives of the Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) in the Community.

This policy is applicable to all Board of Health Members.

**BRANT COUNTY HEALTH UNIT  
ADMINISTRATION MANUAL  
PROCEDURE**

<b>Category:</b> Board of Health	<b>Number:</b> III-170(a)
	<b>Ref. Policy No.:</b> III-170
<b>Approved/Issued by:</b> <b>Board of Health</b>	<b>Page:</b> 1 of 1
	<b>Date:</b> January 2022
<b>Distribution:</b> Administration Manual	<b>Revision Date:</b>

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**PROVIDING EVIDENCE OF COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION**

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The Brant County Health Unit Board of Health requires all Board of Health Members to provide evidence of immunization for COVID-19 to Brant County Health Unit Human Resources Department via electronic or hard copy submission alternatively they may elect in writing to provide consent to have BCHU employees access their immunization records to verify their immunization status.