



Managing the impacts of COVID-19

Update #9

September 7, 2021

COVID-19 update #9

- Taking care of the community
- Supporting Guelph businesses and economic recovery
- Supporting our organization
- Financial implications and recovery



Taking care of the community

Taking care of the community

- Supporting COVID-19 vaccinations by sharing accurate and reliable information, and encouraging vaccinations
- Implemented a COVID-19 vaccination policy for City staff
- Delivered vaccinations at local clinics, a pop-up clinic and to homebound patients in the community with the help of Guelph-Wellington Paramedic Service
- Reopened:
 - outdoor pools, splash pads, sports fields and recreation amenities
 - Sleeman Centre to 600 spectators over five Nighthawk home games
 - summer camps at eight locations for 1,300 campers
 - indoor exhibits at Guelph Museums



Taking care of the community

- Investing in active transportation
 - Pedestrian and cyclist use of the dedicated active transportation lane on Speedvale increased from 637 pedestrians and cyclists in 2020 to 980 in 2021
 - Received \$798,000 of Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program COVID-19 relief funding to proceed with improvements to Guelph’s active transportation network
 - College Avenue pedestrian crossing alongside Centennial Collegiate Vocational Institute and W.E. Hamilton Park
 - Hanlon Creek Business Park multi-use path

- Capturing this moment in history
 - Guelph Museums launched an exhibit that displays and preserves the stories and experiences of Guelph living through COVID-19 and the fight against racial injustice



Supporting Guelph businesses and economic recovery

Supporting local businesses

- Awarded \$340,000 in Emergency Grant Funds to more than 40 recipients in phase one
 - second phase recipients to be announced later this month
 - applications for third phase open in October
- Launched seasonal patio program across Guelph
 - 36 downtown patios
 - 25 on private property
 - improvements for patio accessibility
- Working on Guelph Shops campaign to promote shopping local businesses for the upcoming holiday season



Supporting Tourism

- Provided \$470,000 to launch Tourism Recovery Funding program
 - sponsor 50 Guelph tourism operations through two streams: emergency operating expense relief and physical and technological adaptation support
- Provided \$230,000 to support tourism recovery programming including:
 - **See you in Guelph** – a two-night visitor incentive program
 - **Tourism Collaborative Support Opportunity** – a program to create or enhance tourism-related initiatives that encourage visitors and support economic recovery
 - **Clicks Support Bricks** – a recovery program to support online sales and customer engagement with destination retail businesses



Investing in the community

- Continue to advocate and advance Transit recovery and inter-regional connectivity
- Continue to support local businesses and residents
 - About 28.5 per cent (\$40 million annually) of the City's contracted procurement is sourced from businesses within Guelph



Supporting our organization

Keeping employees safe

- Return to in-person operations and Council meetings
 - Hybrid work pilot underway
 - January 2022

- Eye protection requirements
 - no longer enforcing the use of eye protection when a worker is interacting with an appropriately-masked person
 - masks and eye protection still required when a worker is within two metres of an unmasked or improperly-masked person, indoors or outdoors



Keeping employees safe

- Self-isolation criteria when exposed to COVID-19
 - Employees who are **fully vaccinated** or had COVID-19 before:
 - Contact their leader
 - Wear a mask
 - Stay two metres from people they don't live with
 - Self-monitor for symptoms and isolate if symptoms occur
 - Employees who are **not fully vaccinated**:
 - Stay home
 - Contact their leader
 - Get tested for COVID-19
 - Self-isolate (even with no symptoms) for 10 days



Lifting the State of Emergency order

- EOCG recommends the order only be lifted when:
 - Vaccination rate: 75 per cent fully vaccinated
 - Incident rate: less than 10 cases/100,000 people
 - Reproduction rate: less than one
 - Test positivity rate: less than 0.5 per cent for 14 days
 - Health system capacity is maintained as adequate



Financial implications and recovery

Looking to year-end

- Year-end deficit of \$8.4 million
 - before applying \$17.2 million Safe Restart grant funds already received
 - mitigated by COVID-19 related expenditure savings: compensation and staff training, reduced operating supplies
- Budget pressures:
 - lost revenues
 - COVID-related operating expenses
- Capital spending has returned to pre-COVID levels



Managing our finances

- \$25 million line of credit expired in December 2020; did not extend
- Cash and investment holdings through 2021 remain strong
- Federal funding
 - \$17.2 million in Safe Restart grant funding
 - \$16 million in Community Building Fund (increased from \$8 million)
 - \$798,000 in Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) COVID-19 relief funding



Leading with strong fiscal management

- City maintains its AA+, stable outlook credit rating
 - **nine years in a row**
 - robust policies
 - strong reserve balances
 - the adoption of multi year budgeting
 - health and resilience of the broader Guelph economy



Recommendation

That the report “Managing the Impacts of COVID-19: Update 9” dated September 7, 2021 be forwarded to the local Member of Parliament and Member of Provincial Parliament, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Association of Municipalities Ontario, Ontario Big City Mayors and the Federal Minister of Finance and the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister of Finance for the Province of Ontario.