



Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

Location: Zoom
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021
Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
Emergency Child Care (ECC)	ECC begins on Monday, April 19th. Will be sending out a media release soon. Parents can register through One List. Operators are set up and ready to accept applications. As of this morning, there were over 200 applications in the system, which suggests there will be more parents/guardians signing up than there during other lockdowns. Are working to expand locations and operators to minimize wait lists – the caveat is having enough staff to operate the centers. All child care centers and licensed home care for children 0-4 are remaining open. The ECC is for school-aged children of eligible parents. See Region of Waterloo website for more information.
Child Welfare	Provincial work to inform foster youth re: vaccinations is underway. A further update will be provided as soon as the messaging is reviewed with Public Health. Provincially, the number of foster youth and foster parents that have tested positive has increased significantly during the third wave. In the Region, there have been no youth in care that have tested positive and no staff that have tested positive as a result of their care work.
Education	<p>Mon Avenir: Planning to ensure that students with special educational needs will continue to receive in-person learning after the break.</p> <p>WCDSB: Chrome books are already with students. Full-synchronized lessons for elementary students begin on Tuesday, April 20th, with the Monday functioning the same as a snow day. For secondary students, Monday and Tuesday are scheduled as credit recovery days, and then quad 4 beings on Wednesday, April 21st. Vulnerable students also begin on Wednesday, April 21st.</p> <p>Discussed concerns previously flagged by parents/guardians re: how far behind students will be once school returns to normal if parents/guardians are unable to support them with virtual learning now. Discussed the need to adjust messaging to parents/guardians so as not to add further mental and emotional stress, perhaps through Public Health and School board press</p>



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	<p>briefings. Also discussed the need to reframe in terms of expectations surrounding report cards, with the focus being mental and emotional health vs. academics/curriculum requirements. Noted that these issues relate back to systemic issues, as the students furthest away from opportunity are now further away than ever.</p> <p>ACTION: Email Monika with key messages that can be put forth for consideration in press briefings, used in own organization's social media posts, etc. Alison will then bring the key messages to CYPT's Communications Advisory Team (CAT), with the aim of reviving the #StongerTogetherWR social media campaign. PWG members will be invited to participate in shaping the refresh of this campaign. Alison will also send out the CAT meeting details for anyone on this Working Group who is interested in participating.</p>
Vaccination Roll Out	<p>Vaccination roll out continues according to vaccine availability. Pharmacies are continuing to ramp up, and physicians and pop-up clinics are moving forward as well. Community vaccination clinics are continuing to stay full.</p> <p>Continuing to move down the priority list. In hot spots, work is moving forward to enable all 18+ to be vaccinated. The Public Health website will reflect this update as soon as it's available.</p> <p>Pfizer recently indicated that they have completed research re: vaccinations of 12 to 15-year olds, and have received great efficacy results. Are working to receiving approvals for this.</p> <p>Question raised if special education teachers can be vaccinated and how they would be able to register. Answer given that Public Health has been working directly with teachers to provide this information.</p> <p>Noted that conversations occurring re: Early Childhood Educators. Currently no update that they are being moved up the priority list, but that may change in the future.</p> <p>Question raised re: timeline of vaccinations for other essential workers like grocery store employees. Answer given to clarify that prioritization occurs within priority groups like essential workers (e.g. age priority) and that currently, essential workers are not being asked to pre-register. Noted that while there are provincial regulations for prioritization, local public health is expected to conduct their own local prioritization. A Sequencing Working Group meets almost daily with various sectors to determine needs and</p>



**Children and Youth
Planning Table**
of Waterloo Region

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	compare these with vaccine availability in order to determine ever-changing prioritization needs.
Summer Programming	<p>Programming Updates City of Kitchener has met with Carizon's Youth Force with the goal of helping youth with job processes.</p> <p>Kinbridge is also working with Youth Force, and is working to revamp what the job opportunities are, especially for low-income youth.</p> <p>Family Compass Will be moving forward to update summer options on the Family Compass COVID-19 Resource site. Stay tuned for a reach out with more information.</p>
Safe Isolation Hotel	An update will be provided at the next meeting.
Member Updates/ Other	<p>Youth Impact Survey Phase 2 will be launching soon. The goal is to receive at least 1,000 responses. The survey will be valuable data re: child and youth wellbeing during the pandemic.</p>
Next Steps	Next meeting: April 30, 12pm to 1pm