



Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

Location: Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021
Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
Emergency Child Care (ECC)	If/when third wave hits, all processes ready (enrollment, operators, etc.) so no special preparations needed, other than to pivot and begin operation.
Child Welfare	Have not yet started preparations for a third wave, but since the processes has been established and previously implemented will be easy to pivot.
Education	<p>WRDSB:</p> <p>Continue to have greater numbers of staff absenteeism, due to either the staff person themselves showing symptoms or someone in their household showing symptoms. This issue is especially concerning for educational assistants, where there are less staff available to draw from. Currently working to hire to fill gaps.</p> <p>In response to a third-wave, confident able to move to a virtual environment quickly, and confident complex-learning students can attend in-person.</p> <p>Biggest focus currently is transition planning – e.g., to kindergarten, to high school. Working on virtual tours, and later in the year, in-person tours.</p> <p>Will be receiving additional funding to provide support over the summer, specifically surrounding literacy and mental health. Feel confident that there will be an improvement in supports provided in comparison to the previous summer, as there's more time and awareness of collaboration possibilities.</p> <p>WCDSB:</p> <p>Continue to rely on COVID screening with enhanced protocols, following operational guidelines and working with PH in relationship to positive cases and contact tracing. If required to pivot in response, can do so seamlessly.</p>



	<p>Re: September planning, transition survey for the 2021/2022 school year is underway between March 15th and March 19th to allow for planning of needed staff. Families to choose one mode: in-person or virtual. To accommodate changing preferences, will survey a second time in June. This is onetime offering for the entire school year, as there won't be transition periods throughout the school year. This has been communicated to families. Expecting a fraction students to participate in online learning come September, however will continue to offer an online option for families.</p> <p>Mon Avenir: Ready to pivot to online learning as needed. Also offering additional summer courses with a focus on literacy. Will also have social workers on hand during the summer. For September, Mon Avenir is also offering the option for online or in-person learning to parents, but timelines for choosing might be restricted to allow for more stability within classrooms.</p> <p>Questions raised if online learning option will carry on in post-COVID times. Some discussions, as the need for online learning has been an eye-opener. It was noted that continuing online learning may be positive for i.e. anxious students, but the other side of the coin is around the sense of belonging and if students are engaged and socialized enough if all their learning is from home. Noted that the PWG would be a helpful group to consult as school boards continue to weigh considerations of future on-line learning.</p>
Vaccination Roll Out	<p>Now have five community vaccination locations. Information about vaccine roll out locations can be found here.</p> <p>Priority populations are identified provincially, and local communities put in mechanisms to vaccinate according to the priority list. Now registering 70- to 79-year-olds. Need to be in a priority group to pre-register, but work done behind the scenes to prioritize within the priority groups. Communications surrounding vaccine hesitancy and messaging to certain priority populations who might lack information or have additional hesitancy also ongoing.</p> <p>Question raised re: if 65-70-year olds can get vaccinated (as there was a gap for this age group in terms of vaccine eligibility). Answer provided that Pfizer and Moderna vaccine is being given to those that are 70+, but that the Astra-Zeneca vaccine was aimed at 60- to 64-year-olds. However, this vaccine has since been deemed safe for those 65 and over. Roll out to shift accordingly.</p> <p>Question raised re: timeline for vaccinations for school staff working in-person. Answer provided that educators would be vaccinated closer to April, once Phase 2 of the vaccination roll out is implemented.</p>



	<p>Question raised re: vaccinations for summer camp staff. Answer provided that they would likely be eligible come Phase 2 of the roll out, but there is no specific information available at this time.</p> <p>Question raised re: timeline of when children would be vaccinated. Answer that research surrounding the vaccination of children is still underway, so there are no timeline projections as of yet. The exception would be for teens in congregate homes, as long as they are 16+.</p> <p>Question raised if PHE vaccine rollout matches with the community heat map of COVID cases. Answer given that the heat map information was taken into consideration when deciding on the location of the community clinics. It's also being taken into consideration when planning pop-up clinics throughout community. As well, mobile clinics will be established in the future.</p>
Summer Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>What's on offer for kids this April break across the region</u> <p>Kinbridge: Day camp registrations have opened. Parents are only able to register for two weeks at a time to allow for more of a wider community reach. Will also have 'pop-up parks'. Working with outreach workers to ensure parents are connected.</p> <p>City of Waterloo: Registrations for camps in Waterloo open next Wednesday, March 24th. Please review last week's <u>meeting minutes</u> for more information shared then. As well, <u>Online March Break Camps</u> offered by Jump Start will be available until the week of April 12th.</p> <p>Group noted that would be helpful to have Family Compass COVID-19 resources available over the summer. As this is run by CYPT Backbone Staff, this will be brought to the CYPT Steering Committee to approve allocation of backbone staff time.</p>
Member Updates/ Other	<p>Carizon will be coming out with a new series of workshop. More information to be shared in the future.</p> <p>Children's Services in process of developing five-year services plan. Will be launching survey for all families across Region with at least one child 0-5 years old. Want to hear from all their parents re: their experience with child care providers. Survey data will be disaggregated. When it is made available (current timeline: next week), it will be shared with PWG with hopes that the survey can be distributed far and wide.</p>
Next Steps	Next meeting: April 1, 12pm to 1pm