

Date: September 20, 2021
To: GW OHT Core Steering Committee
From: Emmi Perkins
Subject: **Key Messages – Core Steering – September 15, 2021**

Key Messages

The following are the Key Messages from the Guelph Wellington OHT Steering Committee meeting on September 15, 2021 that can be shared as appropriate with your staff, clinicians, boards, partners etc.

- Dr. Mercer provided an update re: COVID and spoke to the value of vaccination as well as addressed a question about eligibility for booster doses for health care workers, persons over 80 and other persons with waning immunity. Dr. Mercer reported that guidance is currently being developed on this and urged partners to consider how boosters will be administered given mass clinics are no longer operating. Providing 3rd doses to LTC and RH residents is a priority in our community with a goal to complete by the end of this month. Health Human Resource issues are the main challenge facing our system's ability to both respond to wave 4 while maintaining routine health care services.
- The GW OHT Steering Committee reviewed and endorsed a revised Collaborative Decision-Making Arrangement (CDMA) that was previously reviewed and revised jointly with RW partners. The revised CDMA (click [here](#)) reflects the partnership between the Guelph and Area Ontario Health Team and Rural Wellington partners – some of whom have already joined the GW OHT. The Steering Committee reiterated their commitment to updating the CDMA regularly to support the partnerships within the GW OHT as they evolve toward maturity.
- The GW OHT Steering Committee received and approved several documents including a 'Primary Care Communications Protocol', a 'Patient Engagement Framework' and a 'Digital Health Funding Proposal'.
- GW OHT Strategy & Governance Council (SGC) has moved that the Guelph Wellington Ontario Health Team pursue an "Organizational Alliance". This decision was reached based on the recognition that the GW OHT has reached a state of maturity and readiness for a more advanced governance structure that will support its transformational agenda and intended functions over the next 2-3 years. The "Organizational Alliance" model aligns closely with the interim model that the GW OHT SGC has designed as part of its work to design a governance structure for the OHT. The Steering Committee discussed the implications of becoming an Organizational Alliance. This issue will remain a focus for the Steering Committee as it works to support the transition to an Organizational Alliance.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Emmi Perkins (emmi.perkins@quelphfht.com)