



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NURSING STATION

P.O. Box 250
Station Main
PARRY SOUND,
ONTARIO

PHONE

705-746-8022

FAX

705-746-2039

**Programs Services Available
Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30
(other times as posted)**

Federally funded:

Prevention and Promotion
Programs
(CHR/NNADAP)

Home and Community Care
Programs & Services

Medical Transportation
Program

Provincially funded:

Primary Care Services

HCC Program

Community Aboriginal
Recreation Activator
(CARA Program)

Mental Wellness/Prevention
Regional Services

March 24, 2023

From the Desk of the Director of Health

Greetings to the community,

Update on COVID-19, impacts to programming...

As we move into the new fiscal year of 23-24, please be advised that **"COVID monies" have as being reported on news casts, have been "absorbed" into the provincial health budget**, to provide some cushioning for that sector. Federal monies return back to pre-pandemic amounts. I have been advising staff and leadership over the past several months that the stipends received throughout the past 3 years has a shelf date, it is March 31, 2023.

COVID pandemic is still with us, however the reporting on "WAVES"; infection rates and new variants have pretty much ended. It is still necessary for those of us infected, (this includes myself at this time) need to remain at home until our "viral load" dissipates. So up to 10 days after symptoms have appeared and positive for infection has been found. COVID-19 remains very infectious and for those not vaccinated; or having gained some immunity through infection; or for those who are immunocompromised, please take precautions. Ideally, we will maintain our 5 day, 2 negative test rule...**NOTHING HAS CHANGED**. But for those of us who hold onto the infection, the 2 negative test rule/no symptoms could last a fair bit. We have decided to utilize this practice as a means to keep our community safe from multiple infections. Need more supplies give the nursing station a call 705-746-8022.

Programming changes that are anticipated...

"Meals on Wheels", due to the change in "food security supports", a criteria listing is being developed to ensure that the seniors and those in need of Meals on Wheels prepared frozen foods continue to receive. The food service will continue into May 2023, but with funding no longer available, the program has had to look at alternatives.

The **new addition** to the health centre is near its completion, we are stocking the medicinal room, ceremonies have begun taking place, new entrance to be established for general entry/inquiry and for "appointment made meetings with clinicians" and "communicable disease needs". We will be slowly integrating this change over the next months. The rule of thumb will be all programs and services that had taken place in the "HUB" will now be provided on site in the Spiritual/Meeting Room. The workers delivering the addictions and mental health/wellness programming will now be located in the new addition. An Open House is planned as is a health fair in May(?).

Please if you are able and have the technology to do so, go to this website: **wasauksing.health** to locate calendars; updates of all kinds and pictures of the new addition; new staff and to make contact.

Program Reporting period...

I am now in the middle of key administrative duties, staff evaluations; program reporting; and year-end financials. This will be the work undertaken well into May. The health programs are integrated both financially and from a programming perspective, so the unpacking of programming for purposes of reporting to funders is one that begins now.

Masks are still a requirement when entering the health centre, this is the "extremely viral and bacterial season". Flu (GI/respiratory); COVID-19 and many others are in abundance.

Wash those hands, mask and be mindful of your distance from others, stay home if ill.

Consider a "big to large" gatherings as potential super spreaders.

Deb Pegahmagabow-Director of Health