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Burlington COVID-19 Task Force Meeting #7 – May 21, 2020

Agenda & Action Items

Agenda:

1. Opening remarks from Mayor on City’s reopening strategy
2. New Item from Burlington Restaurant Association via Ted/Shelley Kindos
3. Update from Eric Vandewall on hospital capacity
4. Review & update to existing Action Items
5. Any new action items and concerns as phase 1 reopenings continue
 - Burlington Together and their Grow a Row Program (Denise Beard)
6. Next meeting: Thursday of next week 4pm as usual

Ongoing Action Items Update:

<p>Subcommittee to address the issue of food security and actively identifying those at risk/in need and matching up with support.</p> <p>May 20 Update: Denise Beard - Gift of Giving Back food drive still in planning phase based on gathering size as we wait on more direction there.</p> <p>Basic Income Program: support from government has helped get many people to a basic income level and get them to a point where they no longer need the targeted food support and has had a very good effect on their mental health and well-being. Worth considering what we can do to advocate making this more of a permanent solution. Takeaway for government leaders.</p> <p>Burlington Together (formerly Care Mongering) has a new program called Grow a Row – offer to grow a row for the food bank at the end of the season. Share/spread the word.</p> <p>Jamie from MP Gould’s Office: Emergency Community Support Fund was also launched this week for organizations who help vulnerable organizations: https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/emergency-community-support-fund.html</p>	<p>Denise Beard, City of Burlington</p>
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<p>Promoting the Friday Night Porch Clap more effectively:</p> <p>May 20: No additional updates at this time.</p>	<p>Carla Marshall, City of Burlington (buses)</p> <p>Anissa Hilborn</p>
<p>Burlington Foundation / United Way funding and grants:</p> <p>May 20 Update: Additional Funding Announced for both Burlington Foundation as well as United Way Halton & Hamilton.</p> <p>Tyler Moon - \$2.4M available July 31 so apply via United Way, rolling intake for Halton & Hamilton – website has guide, criteria and applications. https://www.uwhh.ca/</p> <p>As per a press release shared by Colleen Mulholland, Burlington Foundation received \$336,450 and starting on May 19 will begin accepting applications for funding from qualified donees. Grants can be used for a variety of purposes, including to cover staffing or resource needs, purchase assistance and more. Funding will be issued on an ongoing basis through July 2020. https://burlingtonfoundation.org/</p>	<p>Colleen Mulholland, Burlington Foundation</p> <p>Tyler Moon, United Way</p>
<p>Create a directory of where residents can purchase consumer safety masks (not the same as medical grade PPEs procured by the federal and provincial governments and reserved for front line workers).</p> <p>Directories are now available on Chamber/Team Burlington site + there is a provincial directory for businesses to use as of last meeting.</p> <p>May 20 Update: Mayor conveyed the City’s approach to masks is wear them where you can’t maintain physical distancing at this time.</p> <p>Jamie from MP Gould’s office - Use of non-medical facemasks in community settings: http://www.phn-rsp.ca/sac-covid-ccs/wearing-masks-community-eng.php and</p> <p>How to make your own mask: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/sew-no-sew-instructions-non-medical-masks-face-coverings.html</p>	<p>Carla Nell</p> <p>Denise Beard</p> <p>MP Gould’s Office</p>

Completed Action Items:

<p>Content for data hub continues, material being vetted. Content should be in place and reviewed for next week & protocols to launch will come from there.</p> <p>May 20 update: Launched now and can be accessed on Covid community response page. Working with communications team for information updates to ensure info is always up to date. Link: https://coronavirus-response-burlington.hub.arcgis.com/</p>	<p>Anthony Campese</p>
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New Action Items:

<p>Burlington Restaurant Association:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rent relief is a top priority, some rent forgiveness has happened but not broadly. The business revenue can never be recouped for the lost time being closed so deferrals really just become debt.- Despite being open for takeout, liquor revenue is almost nil and used to account for a considerable part of revenue. Overhead continues to be high including liability insurance that has not been discounted at all despite significantly less clientele on premises.- Credit card companies have offered some interest free respite - would help to have more from hydro, gas, etc.- Concerns persist about revenue going forward even once open due to limits expected on capacity.- Additional patio/parking lot/pop-up capacity will be helpful especially in the north. Partner with landlords but also city zoning.- Council resolution advocating for commercial rent relief will be brought forward on Monday with wording related to where landlord does not take advantage of the rent relief, tenant needs ability to bypass and access the support.- Mayor / City Manager Commisso – we will support restaurants opening as soon as Province gives green light + assist with any additional measures at the city level that can help with capacity such as expanded patio space zoning, etc.- MPP Triantafilopoulos – cannot yet confirm timing for restaurants to open – so much depends on covid numbers in next 2-4 weeks. Rent support opens end of next week and Premier will watch uptake and if it is not adequate, further action will be taken.- Anita Cassidy, BEDC – early June outreach to BRA to continue the conversation around support for restaurant industry both short and longer term.- Carla Nell, Chamber – seeking specific data to support reform in addition to anecdotal evidence.	<p>Ted / Shelley Kindos</p> <p>Burlington Restaurant Association</p> <p>Marianne / Lisa / City Staff / Pam / Brian /Tim/ Judy takeaway regarding zoning for patios</p>
<p>Hospital Capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- While covid capacity has not surged, the rest of hospital activity has to be maintained at a certain level to support capacity should it be needed. While some people in the community with other health issues have been staying home rather than seeking treatment and care at the hospital, they are now presenting at emerg/acute care because they can't maintain their health at home any longer.- Surgeries that were delayed need to come back online soon and per provincial guidelines, hospital capacities need to be less than 85% for elective surgeries to be reintroduced.- Looking to leaders to get the message out that it is still essential to follow provincial orders to minimize covid spread so that everyone in our community can access healthcare for any issue, not just covid.	<p>Eric Vandewall</p>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- There are concerns about the fall flu season and volume that may create.- The Pandemic Response Unit remains available with no plans to take it down at this time. Eric would like to see us get through the fall flu season before making a decision on whether it is no longer needed and that decision would be made in partnership with the Province. | |
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FYI: Dan VanderLelie – Burlington Professional Firefighters Assn members are helping with Eid celebrations in partnership with the Burlington Mosque.