

Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit
2021 Annual Report

Our Values • Trust • Engagement • Accountability • Leadership

Healthy People
Healthy Communities



hkpr.on.ca
1-866-888-4577

Message from our Medical Officer of Health and CEO

I am pleased to present the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) District Health Unit's 2021 Annual Report. While much of our focus was on the intensity of the COVID-19 pandemic response, our 2021 Annual Report highlights other public health priorities as well.

In April 2021, I joined the health unit as its new Medical Officer of Health. I very quickly saw first-hand what a skilled, hard-working, and passionate group of employees were working behind the scenes of a complex and ever-changing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Early in 2021, the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were distributed and administered into the arms of those most vulnerable, including those in long-term care homes and high-risk settings. During the warmer months we collaborated with many community partners to administer thousands upon thousands of doses across our mass immunization clinics. Our collective efforts extended through the many districts we serve including the City of Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton County and Northumberland County, in remote, urban, and rural settings.

In the fall of 2021, the HKPR District Health Unit worked with local school boards to organize and implement vaccine clinics for our education workers, students, and their families, as well as surrounding communities. We thank the many school boards and education partners who worked with us to deliver the best public health response to some of our youngest and most vulnerable.

Reflecting on 2021, I am reminded of the invaluable role public health has played, and continues to play, within our communities. Local public health experts know and understand the communities they serve and monitor local situations, partner with agencies and work together on targeted approaches to best serve everyone. This was another year that demanded our complete attention. We were required to rapidly adapt, pivot, and respond. Whether we were controlling



outbreaks, responding to cases and contacts of the virus, or rolling out vaccination programs, I am proud of what we have accomplished and how we've responded.

With the leadership support of our Board of Health, the unwavering support of our many agency and community partners across all sectors and levels, and the tireless efforts of our employees, we persevered. Throughout 2021 the HKPR District Health Unit rose to every challenge, and for that I am very grateful.

Yours in health,

Dr. Natalie Bocking, MD, MIPH, CCFP, FRCPC (she/her)
 Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
 HKPR District Health Unit

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Members of the Board of Health



John Henderson, Vice-Chair
Northumberland County



Tracy Richardson
City of Kawartha Lakes



Andrea Roberts
County of Haliburton



Doug Elmslie, Chair
City of Kawartha Lakes



David Marshall
Provincial Appointee



Bill Cane
Northumberland County



Carol Brown
Provincial Appointee



Bob Crate
Northumberland County

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Public Health Snapshot: What We Do



1,656

complaints were responded to by our Public Health Inspectors and Tobacco and Vaping Enforcement Officers



3,324

positive COVID-19 case investigations completed



5,259

high risk COVID-19 contact investigations were followed up on



80

COVID-19 outbreaks managed



84,186

vaccines distributed to partners (not including COVID-19 vaccines)



661

parents and families were supported through our Healthy Babies Healthy Children program



70

Feeding and Nutrition Clinic appointments



31

ticks collected and tested for vector-borne diseases



2,138

Naloxone kits distributed to partners



604

animal exposures occurred



72

Boil Water Orders and Advisories



44

Public Beaches and 6 Provincial Park Beaches monitored



648

inspections of food premises



4,415

reports of communicable and infectious diseases followed up on



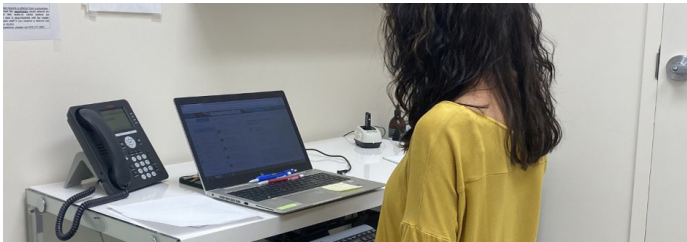
161

inspections of other premises (i.e. recreational camps, childcare facilities, group homes)

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Our COVID-19 Pandemic Response

In 2021, the HKPR District Health Unit entered its second year of pandemic response. The SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19) continued to mutate and evolve leading to innovative approaches to limit its spread and prevent illness and death in our communities.



Cases, Contact Tracing and Outbreaks

During 2021, the HKPR District Health Unit worked tirelessly to provide case management and contact tracing for COVID-19. Our teams completed case investigations on **3,234** positive cases of COVID-19 and followed up with **5,259** high-risk contacts.

A team of nurses, public health inspectors, administrative professionals, as well as dietitians, food workers, health promoters, dental assistants and dental hygienists redeployed to this team, worked closely with individuals to assess their symptoms and provided important instructions for self-isolation and self-monitoring, to ensure individuals' health and well-being and prevent broader community spread of COVID-19.

In addition to case and contact management, the HKPR District Health Unit declared and managed **80** outbreaks among local workplaces, schools, childcare centres, long-term care homes, retirement homes, congregate living settings, and hospitals.

3,234 confirmed cases

5,259 high-risk contacts identified

80 outbreaks managed

Enforcement and Community Safety

The HKPR District Health Unit responded to **1,656** complaints from a variety of sources, which led to the issuing of **31** tickets under the province's *Reopening Ontario Act and Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. Taking a progressive enforcement approach, HKPR's Public Health Inspectors and redeployed Tobacco and Vaping Enforcement Officers visited facilities to provide education and conduct audits and inspections to ensure compliance with the regulations.

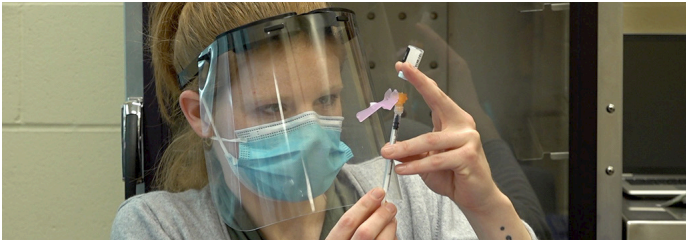


Vaccination

This year marked the official beginning of the HKPR District Health Unit's rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in our area and a significant shift in resources across the organization, the health system and the community. In our best effort to administer vaccines to a large number of individuals quickly, the HKPR District Health Unit worked collaboratively with municipalities within Northumberland County, the City of Kawartha Lakes, the County of Haliburton, and our health care partners (hospitals, family health teams, community health centres, Ontario Health Teams, paramedicine services, midwives, long-term care homes, retirement homes, congregate living settings, correctional facilities and pharmacies) to establish and operate mass immunization clinics across the three counties we serve.

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Our COVID-19 Pandemic Response



Through collective community efforts, **336,784** doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered in 2021 at mass vaccination clinics, pharmacies, primary care offices, schools, and mobile clinics.

This phased roll out was balanced with the rise and decline of cases of COVID-19, with a focus on vulnerable populations, as the nation progressed through each wave of COVID-19. By the end of 2021, **74.9%** of the eligible local population had received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

260,856vaccines administered by HKPR, excluding doses administered by pharmacies

336,784vaccines administered in total, including doses administered by pharmacies

150different HKPR District Health Unit vaccination locations, including clinics run at long-term care homes and retirement homes.

78different partner-collaborated vaccination locations including hospitals, primary care, paramedicine, long-term care homes and retirement homes.

50vaccine locations were operated by pharmacies.

76.7% of eligible residents who received their first dose*

74.9% of eligible residents who received their second dose*

32.3% of eligible residents who received their third dose*

**the above percentage includes the population 5 -11 that wasn't eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination until November 23, 2021.*

Throughout 2021, our COVID-19 Response Team focused on serving and supporting the populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic who faced barriers to prevention, testing and vaccination. Using a community engagement approach, our teams worked closely with community partners to acknowledge barriers and address inequalities by implementing measures to allow all individuals access to COVID-related information, testing, and vaccination.



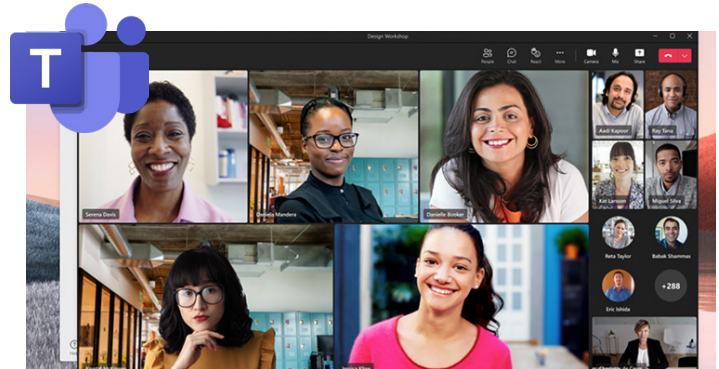
We want to thank our partners for their support, knowledge, and resources in meeting the needs of our communities including the Government of Canada, Government of Ontario, Ministry of Health, County of Haliburton, City of Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland County, school boards, hospitals and health care agencies, community health centers and social service providers, surrounding Public Health Units, and testing and vaccination partners. We also want to thank the residents and business owners for their efforts and support in keeping our community healthy, safe, and well during the pandemic.

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Communications, IT and Human Resources

Communications

Throughout 2021, the HKPR District Health Unit's Communication Services Department strove to provide accurate and reliable COVID-19 information from international, federal, provincial, and local sources to residents, employers, and businesses in our area. Several forms of communication were established or expanded, including a COVID-19 Information Call Centre, a designated COVID-19 website section, bi-weekly virtual Media Information Sessions, social media campaigns, and other forms of media engagement. Nearly **93%** of all HKPR media coverage in 2021 was COVID-related. These various platforms allowed for wide distribution of COVID-19-specific information to stakeholders and the community-at-large in a timely manner. Using daily communication strategies, the HKPR District Health Unit prioritized sharing vital information and statistics on vaccination, outbreaks, testing and isolation requirements, public health restrictions, and the overall local pandemic response.

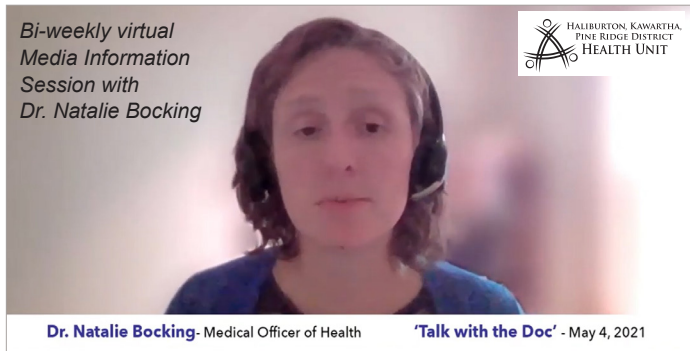


Information Technology

In September 2020 Microsoft Teams went live during the Windows 10 rollout as the Health Unit began integrating virtual meeting technology during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic which allowed us to keep working and to stay connected as we shifted to working from home. Health Unit employees were able to collaborate through meetings, chats, calls, and automate business and client processes, all within a single app. Our new virtual technology was quickly adopted with **48%** of employees using Microsoft Teams in December 2020 and **100%** of employees using Microsoft Teams by February 2021.

Human Resources

During the pandemic, the Health Unit's Human Resources Department focused heavily on staffing to support the COVID-19 response. Many positions were created to support the response. In March, training on the mass immunization clinic roles began and employees were redeployed from working in COVID-19 Case and Contact Management. With the assistance of a staffing agency, HKPR District Health Unit onboarded 50 employees between March and April, which supported call centre, contact tracing, administration, and mass immunization clinics. The Provincial Public Health Workforce was also engaged to assist with case investigation and contract tracing when activity levels were beyond the capacity of Health Unit employees.



- 2,201** total media coverage
(93% was COVID-19 related)
- 85** communication pieces including media releases and advisories
- 45** media information sessions
- 29,160** COVID-19 related phone calls to our dedicated COVID-19 Information Call Centre

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Core Public Health Programs & Services

To manage the varied demands of the pandemic, many HKPR District Health Unit staff were redeployed to the emergency response and vaccination efforts throughout 2021, which impacted the delivery of our core public health programs.

HEALTH PROMOTION DIVISION

Healthy Families and Healthy Babies, Healthy Children

Throughout 2021, the HKPR District Health Unit continued to prioritize the continuation of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program, supporting **661** parents and families with infant feeding and healthy growth and development through telephone contact, virtual visits and home visits.



70 Feeding and Nutrition Clinic appointments (virtual and in-person)



260 postpartum telephone calls to support parents transition from hospital to home



245 telephone consultations provided through the Healthy Families Information and Support Line

Healthy Schools/Healthy Communities

(including Oral Health) – OFFLINE, essential services continued

Harm Reduction



55 Naloxone kits distributed to clients

2,138 Naloxone kits and refill cartridges distributed to partners

HEALTH PROTECTION DIVISION

Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control

We responded to:



4,415 reports of communicable and infectious diseases (including COVID-19)



666 reports of communicable and infectious diseases (not including COVID-19)



138 clients with urgent sexual health needs or in clinics*

**Sexual health clinics were suspended for most of 2021, however some clinics were able to reopen on a modified schedule at the end of the year.*



31 non-COVID-19 outbreaks (26 other respiratory and 5 Enteric)



31 ticks collected and tested for vector-borne diseases, including Lyme disease, during tick dragging operations



175 mosquito traps were submitted from 15 different sites with a total of 18,444 mosquitoes collected for vector-borne disease surveillance



604 animal exposures

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Core Public Health Programs & Services

Immunization

Immunization clinics, for publicly funded immunizations including the school-based vaccination program, were suspended for most of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic response, however two school-based Immunization clinics and two 'No Family Doctor' clinics were able to be held at the end of 2021.



254 vaccine doses were administered



150 cold chain fridge inspections



84,186 vaccines distributed to partners (not including COVID-19 vaccines)

Water Safety



81 responses to Adverse Water Quality Incidents



72 Boil Water Orders and Advisories



44 Public Beaches and **6** Provincial Park Beaches monitored



151 Public Pools* inspected
10 Public Splash Pads* inspected
6 Public Wading Pools* inspected
32 Public Whirlpools* inspected

**Note: Not all premises were open in 2021 due to the pandemic.*

Chronic Disease Prevention & Well-Being

OFFLINE – focused on COVID-19 response

Food Safety



648 inspections of food premises



67 checks supporting food recalls (from frozen mangos contaminated with Hepatitis A virus)



161* inspections of other premises (i.e. recreational camps, migrant farms, childcare facilities, personal service settings, group homes)

**Note: Not all premises were open in 2021 due to the pandemic.*

Environmental Health and Inspections



99 Tobacco display and promotion inspections



83 Vapour display and promotion inspections

Note: The Tobacco Enforcement Officers were allocated to support the COVID-19 response full-time until March where they started to do very limited display and promotion inspections as their COVID-19 work allowed.

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Foundational Standards

Percent (%) of residents 12 and over with one dose

88.2%

Received first dose

Percent (%) of residents 12 and over with two doses

86.5%

Received two doses

Percent (%) of residents 18 and over with one dose

88.9%

Received first dose

Percent (%) of residents 18 and over with two doses

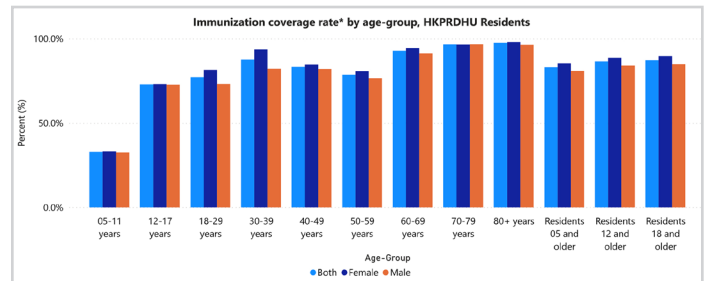
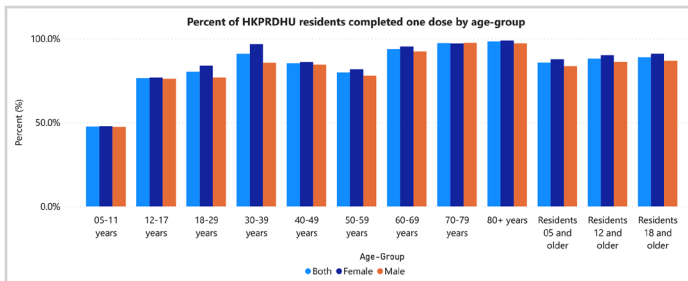
87.4%

Received two doses

Percent (%) of residents 18 and over with three doses/booster

62.2%

Received three doses/booster



Epidemiology Team

- Provided ongoing COVID-19 case/contact and outbreak reporting through the COVID-19 dashboard
- Implemented the COVID-19 immunization dashboard in the summer 2021
- Maintained monthly reportable communicable disease reporting
- Weekly opioid reporting

Health Equity

- Worked with the COVID-19 response team and community partners to address health inequities experienced by individuals and families impacted by COVID-19
- Worked with Indigenous partners to plan and implement Indigenous COVID-19 immunization clinics

Research & Evaluation/CQI

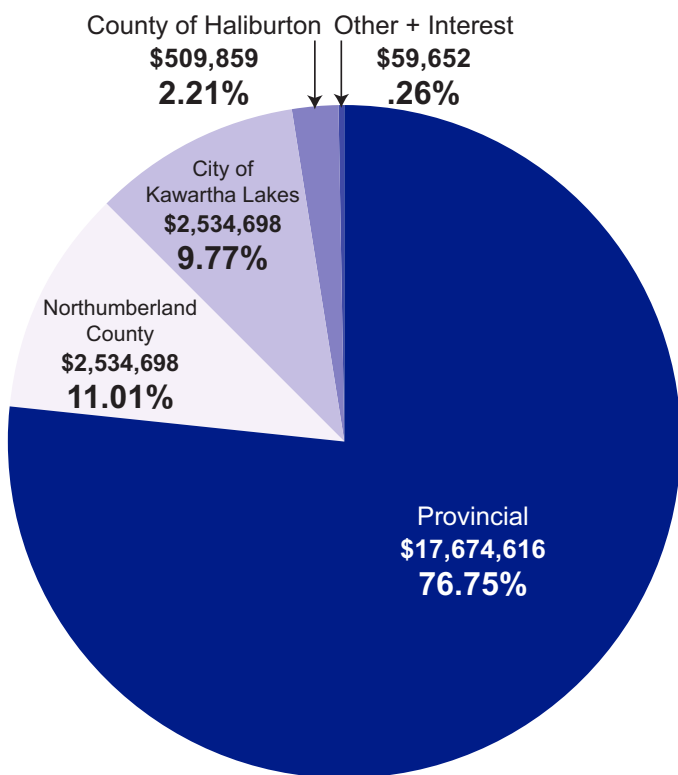
- Completed an evaluation of COVID-19 mass immunization clinics incorporating feedback from clients attending the clinics and implemented recommended improvements
- Completed a quality improvement project with staff and management identifying lessons learned from the COVID-19 response and what we could do better. Identified a number of lessons learned that will continue to be incorporated into the way we work going forward

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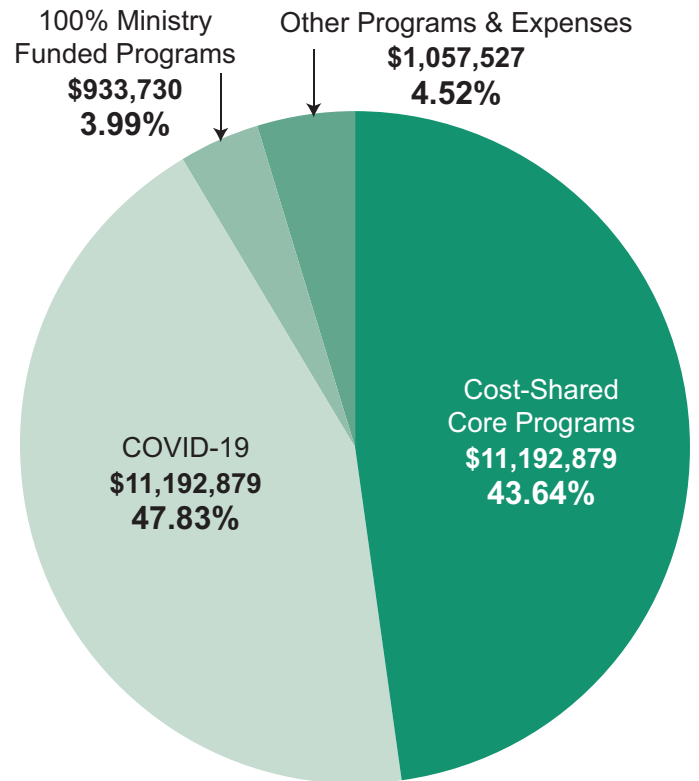
Financial Overview

Statement of Operation for the year ending December 31, 2021

Revenue	
Provincial	\$17,674,616
Municipal	
· Northumberland County	\$2,534,698
· City of Kawartha Lakes	\$2,249,536
· County of Haliburton	\$509,859
Interest	\$22,995
Other	\$36,657
TOTAL REVENUES	\$23,028,361
Expenses	
COVID-19	\$11,192,879
Cost-Shared Core Programs	\$10,210,464
100% Ministry Funded Programs	\$933,730
Other Programs & Expenses	\$1,057,527
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$23,394,600



Revenue



Expenses

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HKPR District Health Unit **2021 Annual Report**

For a printed copy or for more information, contact:

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