



**Northwestern
Health Unit**

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**BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE
NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT**

MINUTES of the Special Board of Health Meeting
December 17, 2021
Electronic Meeting

PRESENT: Doug Lawrance – Chair, Shayne MacKinnon, Trudy Sachowski, Sharon Smith, Jim Belluz, Wendy Brunetta, Jerry O’Leary

IN ATTENDANCE:

Marilyn Herbacz, CEO
Kit Young Hoon, MOH
Lindsay Koch

GUESTS:

REGRETS: Sally Burns

ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Doug Lawrance called the meeting to order at 11:05am

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Per the Board of Health constitution, the agenda for this special meeting was indicated by email when the meeting was called. As such, the Board proceeded without a resolution to approve the agenda.

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None declared.

4. DECEMBER 2021 LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH RESTRICTIONS

Dr. Young Hoon shared recent information regarding case numbers in the NWHU catchment area, including highlighting the surge in cases in the Kenora area and Fort Frances area of the region. Certain aspects of each grouping of cases are making case and contact management more challenging, which leads us to believe that there is more transmission than we are aware of.

Current incidence rates for NWHU are about 100/000, with a percent positivity rate of 3.8%

The Ontario Science Table has recommended a circuit breaker at this time to help blunt the curve of increasing cases and the Omicron variant in the province, which includes the implementation of enhanced public health restrictions and encouraging the population to significantly limit their contacts and gatherings.

The Medical Officer of Health, under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* as well as the *Reopening Ontario Act* has powers to implement public health restrictions at the local level. Dr. Young Hoon sought the Board’s input given their broader understanding of their communities, on the implementation of these restrictions.

After lengthy deliberation, the Board unanimously agreed that restrictions should be put in place, including capacity limits for indoor and outdoor gatherings, and in public spaces such as restaurants, theatres and retail businesses.

UPDATE: At the time of the meeting, it was unclear whether the province would be making an announcement that restrictions would be implemented across the province. At 2:30 local time, Premier Doug Ford announced these limits province wide, and NWHU communications will be issued to bolster the dissemination of this information locally.

5. ADJOURNMENT


The Chair accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:11pm.

Motion / Resolution: # 104-2021 CARRIED	S. MacKinnon W. Brunetta
THAT the Board of Health Meeting be adjourned at 12:11pm.	

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT:

CONFIRMED AS WRITTEN

THIS21..... DAY OFJANUARY.....2022



MEETING CHAIR, BOARD OF HEALTH



RECORDER