



COMMUNITY

Health unit receives extra support from Province with COVID-19 case follow-up

Anyone who needs to be contacted will continue to be followed up by qualified public health professionals, who can offer the advice and guidance they need to stay safe and prevent further spread

By [This Week](#) Kawartha Lakes This Week
Saturday, April 10, 2021

Due to a surge in local cases, reinforcements have arrived to assist the local public health agency with its COVID- 19 case and contact management efforts.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit is receiving support from

the Ontario Ministry of Health's Provincial Work Force (PWF) to do follow up with local COVID-19 cases and contacts. Approximately 40 per cent of eligible cases will be assigned to the Force going forward.

The Force is a centralized case and contact management team that was created within the Ministry to help with pandemic response. Its staff include trained contact tracers and case managers, who are already assisting many other public health units across Ontario, including those in Windsor-Essex, Ottawa, Hamilton, Halton, Toronto, Waterloo, Peel and York.

Will local residents notice a difference? Not at all, according to the local medical officer of health.

"Anyone who needs to be contacted in connection with COVID-19 will continue to be followed up by qualified public health professionals, who can offer them the advice and guidance they need to stay safe and prevent further spread," stated Dr. Natalie Bocking. "We're extremely grateful for this extra provincial support. It comes at a critical juncture, when our staff are already extremely busy responding to a surge in local COVID-19 cases, providing COVID-19 vaccinations at mass immunization clinics across our region, and carrying out other pandemic response work."

Headlines newsletter

Top stories delivered to your inbox.

[Sign Up](#)

According to Dr. Bocking, case and contact management is an important tool used by public health to prevent the spread of certain infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

"Investigating where an individual may have acquired the virus, following up with potential contacts, and ensuring these individuals take steps to prevent further spread [like quarantining or isolating] is crucial to protect the community's wellbeing," she notes.

This is not the first time the local health unit has turned to another provincial body for assistance in its pandemic response.

Since the end of 2020, Public Health Ontario has also been assisting with contact tracing efforts in Northumberland County, Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Tags: [Hyper Local](#), [Human Interest](#), [Community](#)

[REPORT AN ERROR](#)

[JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

You might be interested in



Majority of area seniors have still not received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine



Apr 13, 2021

How many confirmed COVID-19 cases are there in Peterborough and Kawartha Lakes?

We are updating this list each day as more cases are confirmed

May 10, 2021

Health unit struggles to meet vaccination demand in Kawartha, Northumberland in light of dose delays, supply cuts

