



---

**Mayor's Message on COVID-19  
December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Hello everyone, message 35.

A lot can and did happen in the last two weeks!

Within our nation the infection rate has remained high with the positivity rate in several western provinces approaching 10%. Against almost all predictions it appears that the beginning of a vaccination program is now going to start some time later this month.

Understandably, key populations will get the vaccine first, including long term care and retirement home residents and staff. Health care workers including hospital employees, adults in Indigenous communities including remote communities and adults receiving chronic home health care.

Only the most vulnerable at the greatest risk will be vaccinated first. Locally, within the Manitoulin District, we have had four new cases in the last few days bringing our total up to 12 since the beginning of the pandemic (still a low number).

The need to continue doing what we have all been doing has not diminished. With the rising cases elsewhere the need for increased vigilance remains but having come this far, we can and will see this through.

There are now two vaccines ready to go awaiting Health Canada's final approval. By spring the roll out will be well underway and by next summer things should be different, a new normal perhaps but something we can all look forward to.

As always, thank you,

Ian