

Title: **Q3-2023 Programs and Services Under the Ontario Public Health Standards**
To: Board of Health
From: Dr. Natalie Bocking
Date: November 16, 2023
In Camera? Yes No

Overview

- Section 5 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA) specifies that boards of health must superintend, provide, or ensure the provision of public health programs and services in specified areas. [The Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability \(Standards\)](#) outline the minimum requirements that boards of health must meet for mandatory health programs and services.
- This briefing note provides a summary of key program achievements for the third quarter of 2023 (July 1st to September 30th) to inform the Board about activities of the organization, monitor progress of activities, and ensure that the program requirements under the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) are met.

Recommendations to Board

THAT the Board of Health receive the Q3-2023 summary for information.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Presented the Climate Change Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment report to various municipal councils and committees.
- Worked with local veterinarians to plan for reduced cost rabies clinics.
- Completed 91 consultations within schools and engaged in brief assessments with principals to inform public health related programming.
- Continued to meet with various partners with regard to the drug poisoning crisis. (Community based drug checking program, communication of policy solutions, overdose prevention sites, needs assessment, found needle campaign, community education events, etc.).
- Provided information about the following on social media platforms: "Fight the Bite" (preventative measures for Lyme disease and West Nile Virus), "What's in the Water?" (pine pollen, foam, and blue-green algae), beach water monitoring test results, and extreme heat weather alerts.

Achievements in the third quarter, "by the numbers":

- 270 Healthy Babies Healthy Children home visits
- 45 infant feeding appointments
- 63 healthy families information and support line calls
- 69 postpartum clients received phone calls
- 78 children screened for oral health issues (schools closed July and August)
- 157 Ontario Senior Dental Care Program consultations
- 6,041 overdue student immunization records assessed
- 559 doses of vaccine administered at clinics (non-COVID)
- 11,869 doses of publicly funded vaccines distributed to health care sector partners
- 1 adverse storage conditions in vaccine refrigerators was responded to after-hours
- 212 infectious diseases of public health significance followed up on
- 29 outbreaks responded to (26 after-hours)
- 214 animal exposure investigations
- 155 clients seen at 24 sexual health clinics (198 appointments were available)
- 1179 Naloxone kits distributed to community partners
- 423 food safety premise inspections and 40 re-inspections

- 94 special occasion events processed
- 139 other premise inspections (e.g., childcare facilities, personal service settings, group homes, etc.)
- 71 health hazard complaints investigated
- 85 tobacco product and vapour display and promotion inspections and 224 test shopper inspections conducted; (140 warnings and 21 tickets issued)

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS:

Of the 154 mandatory requirements, for the third quarter of 2023:

- 134 were met
- 16 were partly met
- 1 was not met
- 3 were not applicable

Requirements that were “partly met”:

- Measurement of client, community and partner experience has yet to occur. A measurement/indicator framework is being developed as part of the Client Experience Standard.
- Review of policies and procedures is still catching up as we recover from pandemic response. Note that policies and procedures that have required immediate review due to certain circumstances were reviewed and updated as necessary.
- Progress has continued on the organizational People Strategy; however, it has not been fully implemented.
- Staff have begun to re-engage in knowledge exchange activities with public health practitioners across the province, policymakers, academic and community partners, and health care providers as forums and working groups resume (many were on-hold during the pandemic and are just starting back up).
- Health equity related work in the health promotion division has been in program restoration mode; however, policies have been drafted and will be launched during Q4.
- The Vaccine Preventable Disease team has had insufficient human resource capacity to work with school boards and schools to identify opportunities to improve public knowledge and confidence in immunization for school-aged children.

- Although work resumed on the assessment and enforcement of the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA), this work has not yet resumed for childcare settings due to insufficient human resources.
- The Epidemiology team continued to draft external data products, but they have not been released yet.
- Health promotion campaigns related to sexual health have not been restored due to human resource challenges.
- Finalization of assessment and preparation for planning and implementation of public health interventions using a comprehensive health promotion approach to address chronic diseases occurred but has yet to be fully implemented.

Requirement that was “not met”:

- Vision screening in schools remains offline as resumption of oral health screening has been prioritized.

Three requirements were “not applicable” for the following reasons:

- There is no fluoridated drinking water within the HKPR District Health Unit area.
- There are no Consumption and Treatment Service sites located within the HKPR District Health Unit area.
- The Health Unit did not have any compliance or performance issues for which it was required to submit action plans to the Ministry of Health.