

Title: **Q4-2023 Programs and Services Under the Ontario Public Health Standards**
To: Board of Health
From: Dr. Natalie Bocking
Date: February 15, 2024
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 fourth quarter of 2023 (October 1st to December 31st) 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 Q4-2023 summary for information.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Attended meetings with hospitals to discuss collaborative programming with Healthy Babies Healthy Children and to discuss antenatal supports with labour and delivery units.
- Provided six healthy growth and development presentations in collaboration with EarlyON and Northumberland Bridges on nutrition, sleep, and self-care mental health.
- Completed 267 consultations related to school-based programming.
- Promoted awareness of the impact of drugs on skin through wound care campaign.
- Provided educational awareness around proper storage of cannabis edibles.
- Partnered with municipalities and completed reviews of pre-consultation applications, official zoning and amendments, subdivision plans, and an access to recreation policy.
- Collaborated with the Ontario Dietitians in Public health to work on an evidence review for local food systems and the role of public health units.
- Provided information about the following on social media platforms: Respiratory Illness Preventive Measures, *Immunization of School Pupils Act*, Intimate Partner Violence, Low-Cost Rabies Vaccination Clinics, Extreme Cold, and Mental Illness Awareness Week.

Achievements in the fourth quarter, “by the numbers”:

- 339 Healthy Babies Healthy Children home visits
- 42 infant feeding appointments
- 74 healthy families information and support line calls
- 74 postpartum clients received phone calls
- 1427 children screened for oral health issues
- 69 Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program consultations
- 2,100 overdue student immunization records assessed
- 5,029 doses of vaccine administered at clinics (non-COVID)
- 38,665 doses of publicly funded vaccines distributed to health care sector partners
- 11 adverse storage conditions in vaccine refrigerators responded to after-hours
- 986 infectious diseases of public health significance followed up on
- 59 outbreaks responded to (0 after-hours)
- 128 animal exposure investigations
- 153 clients seen at 23 sexual health clinics (235 appointments were available)
- 697 Naloxone kits distributed to community partners

- 264,500 Needles distributed to Needle Exchange Program
- 526 food safety premise inspections and 50 re-inspections
- 46 special occasion events processed
- 12 health hazard complaints investigated
- 33 tobacco product and vapour display and promotion inspections and 33 test shopper inspections conducted; (59 warnings and 7 tickets issued)

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS:

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

- 149 were met
- 1 was partly met
- 1 was not met
- 3 were not applicable

Requirement that was “partly met”:

- Review of policies and procedures is still catching up as we recover from pandemic response; however, progress continued forward during Q4. Note that policies and procedures that have required immediate review due to certain circumstances were reviewed and updated as necessary.

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.