

Date: September 21, 2023 | Time: 9:30-11:30 a.m. | Location: Port Hope office

6. Medical Officer of Health Update

Presenter: Dr. Natalie Bocking, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Bocking provided updates on the Fall 2023 Respiratory Season Preparedness and the launch of the Health Unit's new website.

Fall 2023 Respiratory Season Readiness:

Similar to last fall, the 2023 respiratory season is predicted to be "atypical" compared to pre-pandemic respiratory seasons with a mix of COVID-19, influenza, RSV, and other viruses circulating. Residents are encouraged to stay up to date on what viruses are circulating by visiting the [Health Unit's Respiratory Infections Dashboard](#).

Vaccine for influenza, COVID-19, and RSV will be available this fall (RSV vaccine is new for those who are 60+ residing in long-term care homes, Elder care lodges and in some retirement homes). Influenza and COVID-19 vaccine will initially be available for hospitals and long-term care home residents, staff and caregivers. As more vaccine becomes available, eligibility will expand to include individuals at high-risk for flu/COVID-19 complications or hospitalization and health care workers/first responders. According to current provincial timelines, the general population will become eligible for influenza and COVID-19 vaccine on October 30th.

The Health Unit has hosted respiratory season preparedness tabletop exercises with health sector partners in the City of Kawartha Lakes, and Haliburton and Northumberland counties and sector specific preparedness with long-term care homes, primary care, and other congregate settings.

Rapid antigen tests for COVID-19 are available for the public at Health Unit offices as well as some pharmacies and primary care provider offices. Individuals that are at high risk of severe illness from either influenza or COVID-19 are encouraged to speak with their primary care provider to discuss the need for a prescription for antiviral medication.

Launch of the Health Unit's new website:

The Health Unit recently launched a new website to promote its role within the community and improve navigation and functionality. The site includes public health topics, data reports and dashboards, and calendars with clinics and classes and more. The website can be viewed [here](#).

8. New Business

8.1 Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit's 2022 Annual Report

Presenter: Dr. Natalie Bocking, Medical Officer of Health, and Chief Executive Officer

The year of 2022 was one of restoration as the Health unit continued to respond to COVID-19, but also began to restore other priority public health programs and services.

The Health Unit developed a three-pronged approach to enable pivoting between pandemic response and restoring programs and services that had been "offline" for two years; all the while incorporating lessons learned from the response and building on partnerships that had been strengthened throughout the pandemic.

The full Annual Report can be viewed [here](#).

8.2 Q2-2023 Board of Health Quarterly Report Summary

Presenter: Dr. Natalie Bocking, Medical Officer of Health, and Chief Executive Officer

The Board of Health Quarterly Report informs the Board about activities of the organization and allows them to monitor progress and ensure program requirements under the Ontario Public Health Standards are met.

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

- 132 were met
- 18 were partly met
- 1 was not met
- 3 were not applicable

For a full summary of achievements, the complete report can be viewed [here](#).

8.3 Finance Updates

Presenter: Matthew Vrooman, Director of Corporate Services

2023 Ministry of Health Funding Approval

The Health Unit has received its 2023 funding letters and amendments to the Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement from the Ministry of Health. The Health Unit's budget has been updated to reflect the following changes received in the funding package:

- Increase to provincial contribution to cost-shared budget of \$89,550.
- One time funding approval for New Purpose-Built Vaccine Refrigerators of \$71,200.

Meeting Summary

Board of Health

- One Time Funding approval for Additional inspection support for assessment of small drinking water systems of \$50,000.
- Reduction in Public Health Practicum funding of \$10,000.

The full financial update summary can be viewed [here](#).

8.4 Unaudited Operating Statements

Presenter: Matthew Vrooman, Director of Corporate Services

The Board of Health received the draft unaudited operating statement for the eight-month period ending August 31, 2023 in the amount \$15,493,358 for information.

Statements by division and expense can be viewed [here](#).

For the complete meeting details, please see the [agenda package](#) or view our video recording [online](#).

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 10:00am – 12:00pm, HKPR District Health Unit, Haliburton office, 191 Highland Street, Unit #301, Haliburton