

Title: **Q3-2024 Programs and Services Under the Ontario Public Health Standards**

To: **Board of Health**

From: **Dr. Natalie Bocking, Medical Officer of Health and CEO**

Date: **November 21, 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 third quarter of 2024 (July 1st – 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 the Board of Health

THAT the Board of Health receive the Q3-2024 summary for information.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program provided 12 client and social service provider-focused health education sessions through EarlyON centres and SIRCH on healthy growth and development, mental health, nutrition, and child behaviours.
- The School Health Team completed 50 brief assessments with schools in the month of September. Common themes continue to be immunization, mental health & substance use.
- In collaboration with the HKLN Drug Strategy, International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) events were implemented to honor those lost to drug poisoning and to support those affected. The health unit submitted requests to Northumberland County, the City of Kawartha Lakes, and Haliburton County to lower flags to half-mast.
- A grant application was submitted in conjunction with Peterborough Public Health (PPH) for adaptation in preparedness for adverse health events due to climate change.

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

- 42 infant feeding appointments
- 82 healthy families information and support line calls
- 73 postpartum clients received phone calls
- 40 Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program consultations
- 1578 overdue student immunization records assessed
- 17 in-office publicly funded immunization clinics held
- 12,400 doses of publicly funded vaccines distributed to health care sector partners
- 424 infectious diseases of public health significance followed up on (includes COVID-19)
- 32 outbreaks responded to
- 248 animal exposure investigations
- 253 clients seen at 28 sexual health clinics (260 appointments were available)
- 904 Naloxone kits distributed to community partners
- 17,136 needles distributed through the Needle Exchange Program
- 430 food safety premise inspections and 40 re-inspections
- 100 special occasion events processed
- 70 food recall checks conducted
- 53 health hazard complaints investigated
- 82 personal service settings inspections conducted

- 88 tobacco product and vapour display and promotion inspections and 228 test shopper inspections conducted; (108 warnings, and 9 tickets issued)

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS:

Of the 154 mandatory requirements, for the third quarter of 2024:

- 144 were met
- 6 were partly met
- 1 was not met
- 3 were not applicable

Examples of requirements that were “partly met”:

- Policies and procedures are available to employees and students and include review and revision dates. Regular review has paused due to potential merger and harmonization of policies and procedures (P&Ps). P&Ps that require immediate attention are being addressed.
- Data sources to fully monitor the health of school-aged children and youth are currently being explored and access confirmed. The Education Opportunities Index (EOI) data is used for planning purposes. HKPRDHU will be participating in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS) oversample in 2024/2025. The School Health team is working towards data sharing agreements to access school climate surveys.
- While enforcement of the Immunization of School Pupils Act was fully re-implemented in 2023/24, enforcement of immunization records in licensed childcare settings has not been fully re-started.

Requirement that was “not met”:

- Vision screening in schools remains offline.

Requirements that were “not applicable”:

- 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.