

Title: **Q1-2024 Programs and Services Under the Ontario Public Health Standards**
To: Board of Health
From: Dr. Natalie Bocking
Date: May 16, 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 first quarter of 2024 (January 1st to March 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 Q1-2024 summary for information.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Began development of a suite of Community Health Status dashboards, the first of which will be published by July 2024.
- Continued with 2023/24 school year goal of providing “Not an Experiment” to all Grade 4 students (health risks of vaping).
- Attended Youth Engagement Community of Practice meetings and planned Teen Wellness Fair in the City of Kawartha Lakes and an educational series for youth and caregivers on topics such as vaping, cannabis, and other issues.
- Completed 237 school consultations with a focus on immunization and action planning related to previously conducted assessments.
- Introduced Drug Test Strip Pilot programming and education sessions.
- Coordinated measles response plan, provided catch-up clinics, and held debriefs with acute care partners engaged in the response.
- Co-authored, in collaboration with the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health, the Child Care Menu Planning - Practical Guide, which has been updated to help child care providers ensure that meals, snacks, and beverages served in child care settings meet healthy eating recommendations.
- Led implementation of a provincial community of practice for the integration of perinatal psychotherapeutic technique in home visiting.
- Provided information about the following on social media platforms: Solar Eclipse, Harm Reduction, Public Health Week, Nutrition, Food Handling, the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program, and STOP on the Net (quit smoking program).

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

- 322 Healthy Babies Healthy Children home visits
- 46 infant feeding appointments
- 55 healthy families information and support line calls
- 66 postpartum clients received phone calls
- 1,886 children screened for oral health issues
- 57 Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program consultations
- 3,596 overdue student immunization records assessed
- 1,018 doses of vaccine administered at clinics (non-COVID)

- 35,283 doses of publicly funded vaccines distributed to health care sector partners
- 4 adverse storage conditions in vaccine refrigerators responded to
- 606 infectious diseases of public health significance followed up on
- 29 outbreaks responded to
- 121 animal exposure investigations
- 166 clients seen at 30 sexual health clinics (248 appointments were available)
- 423 Naloxone kits distributed to community partners
- 10,982 needles distributed through the Needle Exchange Program
- 531 food safety premise inspections and 44 re-inspections
- 55 special occasion events processed
- 51 health hazard complaints investigated
- 288 tobacco product and vapour display and promotion inspections and 177 test shopper inspections conducted; (110 warnings, 20 tickets issued, 10 Part III summons issued)

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS:

Of the 152 mandatory requirements, for the first quarter of 2024:

- 137 were met
- 11 were partly met
- 1 was not met
- 3 were not applicable

Examples of requirements that were “partly met”:

- The childcare immunization record program has yet to be restored post pandemic as resources have been focused on the school-based immunization program.
- Sexual Health Services collaborated with community outreach workers and other community groups; however, comprehensive health promotion activities are not being implemented.
- Review of policies and procedures continued to improve. Note that policies and procedures that have required immediate review due to certain circumstances were reviewed and updated as necessary.
- With regard to data related to the health of school-aged children and youth, plans are underway to participate in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey oversample in

2024/2025 and data sharing agreements to access school climate surveys are being drafted to help with identifying public health needs in schools.

Requirement that was “not met”:

- Vision screening in schools remains offline.

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.