



## STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

### Review of City of Toronto Pandemic Planning and Preparedness

<b>Date:</b>	February 8, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Audit Committee
<b>From:</b>	Jeff Griffiths, Auditor General
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

#### SUMMARY

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The Auditor General presented the findings, conclusions and recommendations from his report to the Toronto Board of Health in December 2007.

Because the City's pandemic planning is still in progress, the purpose of the audit was to provide a snapshot of what the City has accomplished and what work remains to be completed in preparing for a pandemic emergency. The overall audit question is: *"To the extent possible, how prepared is the City for a potentially severe pandemic?"* We are cognizant that this should only be answered within the context of what the City can realistically achieve as a municipal government in pandemic planning, in particular considering the City's current fiscal constraints and the need for provincial and federal guidance and coordination. In addition, the substantial degree of uncertainty surrounding a possible pandemic influenza makes planning for a pandemic emergency a complex and difficult task.

The City has undertaken a number of planning activities, and is working towards implementing key actions such as stockpiling personal protective equipment and essential operational supplies. Certain important pandemic public health measures remain to be completed, some of which are dependent upon federal or provincial guidance. The City has established a framework for pandemic planning and preparedness in which public health related planning is led by Toronto Public Health, and corporate planning for continuity of operations is led by the Pandemic Influenza Steering Committee. Our audit noted certain challenges and gaps in the pandemic planning and preparedness process, and as a result our report includes a number of recommendations to help strengthen the existing accountability framework and corporate coordination, as well as enhancing the completion of pandemic public health planning.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There is no financial impact as a resulting from the adoption of this report.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

On December 4, 2007, the Auditor General presented his report to the Toronto Board of Health entitled “Review of City of Toronto Pandemic Planning and Preparedness.” This report dated November 16, 2007 is available in its entirety at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/audit/reports2007.htm>

The Board also heard a presentation from the City Manager and the Medical Officer of Health regarding their response to the Auditor General’s Report. The Board of Health endorsed all of the recommendations included in the Report.

In addition, the Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to:

1. To include information on jurisdictional issues which are barriers to pandemic influenza planning and preparedness in his next written report to the Board of Health on pandemic influenza planning; and
2. Report to the Board of Health within the next six months on the role general health promotion strategies could have in pandemic preparation, including an analysis of cost and which populations would benefit.

This is the first audit of the City’s pandemic planning and preparedness conducted by the City’s Auditor General. This audit was conducted as part of the Auditor General’s 2007 Annual Work Plan, and the Terms of Reference was presented to the Audit Committee in April 2007.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Review of City of Toronto Pandemic Planning and Preparedness

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-8892.pdf>)

Review of City of Toronto Pandemic Planning and Preparedness - Appendix 1

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-8893.pdf>)

Review of City of Toronto Pandemic Planning and Preparedness - Appendix 2

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-8894.pdf>)

Review of City of Toronto Pandemic Planning and Preparedness - Appendix 3

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-8895.pdf>)

Decision document from the December 4, 2007 meeting of the Board of Health

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/decisions/2007-12-04-hl10-dd.pdf>)

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Jeff Griffiths, Auditor General