



REPORT FOR ACTION

Ontario Public Health Standards Risk Management Reporting for 2019

Date: November 22, 2019

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report provides the Board of Health with an update on the risk management reporting that is part of the Ontario Public Health Accountability Framework requirements as of January 2018. Public health units are required to annually submit a Risk Management Report to the Ministry of Health.

Toronto Public Health (TPH) developed an Enterprise Risk Management Framework to standardize the management (identification, assessment, prioritization, and evaluation) of risks. This framework increases TPH's likelihood of achieving its objectives, improves the identification of opportunities and threats, and supports effective and efficient resource allocation. Toronto Public Health will continue to identify and mitigate its risks and report on risk management to the Board of Health and the Ministry of Health in the third quarter of 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

Risk Management is a new requirement for Public Health Units. In 2018, Toronto Public Health submitted its first Risk Management Report to the Ministry of Health.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.HL29.3>

This is the second Board of Health report on annual risk management reporting.

COMMENTS

The Ministry of Health's (the Ministry) Public Health Accountability Framework outlines the requirements to which Boards of Health are held accountable. The Public Health Accountability Framework came into effect January 1, 2018.

As part of these requirements, Public health units must submit annual risk management reports to satisfy the Standard Activity Reporting. To assist in the process of risk identification, assessment and prioritization, TPH developed a risk management framework.

To implement the risk management framework and in keeping with the Ministry of Health requirements, TPH staff identified risks based on the following criteria: frequency of occurrence and potential impact to strategic objectives. As part of the risk management process, TPH identified the following four high risks for 2019 (Attachment 1):

1. Labour disruption - as a result of labour disruption, TPH might be unable to deliver all time-critical services.
2. Provincial Government changes - sudden shift in provincial priorities and/mandate for the local public health units. The Provincial Government has indicated its interest in enhancing the capacity of the public health sector and is currently hosting public consultations on how best to reconfigure the system.
3. Loss of funding - unexpected loss of funding/revenue for critical public health services.
4. Staff shortage - TPH might experience staff shortage and loss of corporate history due to staff retirement and organizational changes.

To minimize the impact of the risks identified, a range of risk mitigation strategies and processes have been put in place, including staff training, communication and collaboration with local and provincial partners, business continuity plans, succession planning, proactive media, mandatory encryption as well as robust budget tracking and workflow documentation. The full list of identified risks and mitigation strategies for 2019 is outlined in Attachment 2.

While the Ministry of Health requires public health units to submit annual risk management reports, this requirement is not related to health unit funding. Toronto Public Health will submit the next risk management report to the Board of Health and the Ministry in the third quarter of 2020. Toronto Public Health will continue to use a risk

management framework to identify and manage risk to achieve its objectives and to support effective and efficient resource allocation.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Medical Officer of Health

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - 2019 Ministry of Health Risk Management Report
Attachment 2 - Toronto Public Health 2019 Risk Register