

Ontario Public Health Standards Risk Management Reporting

Date: March 8, 2021
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 where public health units are required to annually report on a Risk Management Plan to the Ministry of Health.

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

On November 19, 2018, the Board of Health received its first annual report about Risk Management as required by the Ontario Public Health Accountability Framework.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.HL29.3>

On December 9, 2019, the Board of Health received its annual report about Risk Management as required by the Ontario Public Health Accountability Framework.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HL12.2>

COMMENTS

The Ministry of Health's (the Ministry) [Public Health Accountability Framework](#), which came into effect in January 2018, outlines the requirements to which Boards of Health are held accountable. One of the requirements set out in the framework is for public health units to have a formal risk management framework. To satisfy this requirement, and to keep the Board of Health (BOH) informed, Toronto Public Health submits annual risk management reports to the BOH. To assist in the process of risk identification, assessment and prioritization, TPH developed and adopted a risk management framework in 2018.

Toronto Public Health's 2020 risks are based on the following criteria: frequency of occurrence and potential impact to strategic objectives.

For the 2020 reporting period, TPH identified the following four high risks (Attachment 1):

- Supply Chain Issues with COVID-19 Vaccine Administration: The availability of the COVID-19 vaccines depends on a number of factors outside of the control of public health units. Toronto Public Health's ability to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine to Toronto residents will be at risk if there is disruption in the supply chains.
- Provincial Government Changes: The Provincial government continues to express interest in modernizing the public health sector, inclusive of public health units.
- Shortage of Skilled Staff: Toronto Public Health is experiencing a talent shortage and loss of corporate history as staff retire.
- Negative Public Reaction: Public frustration and disagreement expressed by certain segments of the population with the public health measures to control COVID-19 and the impact of these measures.

To minimize the impact of risks identified, a range of risk mitigation strategies and processes have been put in place, including: communicating and collaborating with local, provincial and federal governments and other stakeholders; providing consistent and continuous communication to keep the public and media informed on the importance of public health measures; supporting staff development and training; advocacy for support to mitigate negative impact of public health measures; implementing succession planning initiatives; and adopting new recruitment strategies. Additional information on the 2020 high risks and mitigation strategies are outlined in Attachment 1.

While the Ministry requires public health units to submit annual risk management reports, this requirement is not related to health unit funding. Toronto Public Health will continue to use a risk management framework to identify and manage risks to achieve its objectives and to support effective and efficient resource allocation.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Dr. Eileen de Villa
Medical Officer of Health

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - 2020 Ministry of Health Risk Management Report