

Establishing COVID-19 Pop-up and Mobile Immunization Clinic Sites

Date: October 1, 2021

To: City Council

From: Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management

Wards: All

SUMMARY

Toronto Public Health continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through public health measures and the rollout of the vaccine campaign to the public. The locations and methods for delivery of this campaign continue to evolve and change. The City's Mass Immunization Clinics have been scaled down, and Toronto Public Health has shifted efforts toward using mobile clinics and shorter-duration pop-up clinics to strategically serve specific neighborhoods and locations in need.

This report seeks approval for the Medical Officer of Health, or their designate, to approve and execute new agreements or extensions of existing agreements or other suitable arrangements with federal or provincial agencies, community agencies, private entities and/or individuals, for nominal consideration, for the establishment and operation of mobile clinics and short-term pop-up clinics. The report outlines a proposed site program model, including eligibility criteria, anticipated costs, and evidence to support the establishment of mobile clinics and pop-up clinics.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Medical Officer of Health, or their designate, to approve and execute new agreements or extensions of existing agreements or other suitable arrangements with federal or provincial agencies, community agencies, private entities and/or individuals, for nominal consideration, to establish pop-up or mobile COVID-19 immunization clinic locations, and on such other terms and conditions as may be acceptable to the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Agreements should be of nominal consideration to the City. Costs, if any, will be captured as part of Toronto Public Health's Vaccination Program and reimbursement from the Ministry of Health will be sought.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as identified in the Financial Impact section.

DECISION HISTORY

This report presents a brand new initiative.

COMMENTS

Background on COVID-19 Immunization Clinics

In alignment with Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan, the City of Toronto and Toronto Public Health built a robust plan for the administration of vaccines. The City of Toronto's COVID-19 Vaccination Program is founded on medical and clinical expertise and guidance, and is informed by engagement and collaboration with partners and diverse populations and communities. The Vaccination Program is informed by Toronto Public Health's longstanding success in delivering immunization clinics and supporting internal and external partners to deliver vaccinations within their communities, and is supported by a fulsome communications campaign.

After successfully planning, implementing, and operating nine City-operated Mass Immunization Clinics from January to August 2021, Toronto Public Health has shifted to a highly dynamic mobile vaccination strategy. This strategy entails rapidly (7-14 days start-to-finish) planning, deploying, and operating miniature vaccination clinics (typically with capacity to serve up to 100 clients per day) in numerous settings including workplaces, schools, congregate settings, public spaces, and City facilities such as libraries and community recreation centres. These mobile clinics typically operate for one to three days.

In order to operate nimble and responsive mobile vaccination clinics, Toronto Public Health occasionally needs to make use of privately-owned properties. When a mobile clinic is set up at the request of a property owner, license agreements are not usually required; however, when Toronto Public Health uses private properties and facilities, license agreements or permits are often required in addition to a Certificate of Insurance. Given the need to quickly implement mobile and pop-up vaccination clinics, it is recommended to streamline the process by granting authority to approve and execute license agreements to the Medical Officer of Health or their designate.

Proposed Model

Delegating authority to enter into agreements to facilitate mobile or pop-up clinics would enable the Medical Officer of Health, or their designate, to enter into agreements for the use of public and/or private properties and facilities to operate mobile vaccination clinics.

Once Toronto Public Health identifies the need for a mobile or pop-up vaccination clinic based on epidemiological, operational, or community partners' inputs and a suitable property or facility, Toronto Public Health would engage the property owner and seek a no-cost or, if necessary, nominal-cost agreement to operate on their property. A resulting agreement would be reviewed in consultation with Corporate Real Estate Management, approved by the City Solicitor or their delegate and retained as a business record.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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