

2026 Board of Health Procedures By-Law Review

Date: February 5, 2026
To: Board of Health
From: Medical Officer of Health
Wards: All

SUMMARY

The Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability requires that local Boards of Health review and revise their by-laws, policies, and procedures regularly. The Board of Health Procedures By-law was reviewed most recently in 2021, with the adoption of a new Procedures by-law in May 2023.

This report recommends that the Board of Health Procedures By-law review begin in the spring of 2026 with a final report back in the third quarter of 2026. As part of this review, staff will engage directors of the Board of Health for their insights and feedback.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health direct the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the City Clerk, the City Solicitor, and the Board of Health, to review the Board of Health Procedures By-law and report back to the Board of Health in Q3 2026 with the outcomes of this work.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

Any financial impact arising from actions taken in response to the review outcome of the Board of Health Procedures By-law will be reported back to the Board of Health in Q3 2026.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

In May 2023, the Board of Health amended the Procedures By-Law to allow electronic participation at the Board of Health

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.HL4.3>

In June 2021, the Board of Health directed the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the City Clerk, the City Solicitor, and the Board of Health, to review the Board of Health Procedures By-law and to report on any proposed amendments in January 2022.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.HL29.4>

In January 2019, this Board of Health recommended the adoption of a new Procedures By-law for the Board and the repeal of the existing Procedures By-law.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.HL2.3>

In July 2018, the Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the City Clerk, the City Solicitor, and the Board of Health, review the Board of Health Procedures By-law and report back to the Board of Health on any proposed amendments in November 2018.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2018.HL28.9>

COMMENTS

[The Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability \(Standards\)](#) identify the minimum expectations for public health programs and services to be delivered by Ontario's Boards of Health. The Standards are published by the Minister of Health as per Section 7 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act. Boards of Health are accountable for implementing the Standards. An Accountability Framework is incorporated in the Standards and includes requirements for executing good governance practices. Among these requirements is the requirement that Boards of Health review and revise board by-laws policies and procedures as necessary and at least every two years.

In July 2018, the Board of Health directed staff to initiate a review of the Board of Health Procedures By-law. The 2018 review resulted in a bylaw being passed in 2019. In June 2021, a survey of the Board of Health members and Toronto Public Health staff did not identify any requested changes to the By-law, however, reporting on the outcome of this review was paused to allow the City Clerk's Office to complete a more thorough review of electronic participation in meetings. In addition, staff in the City Clerk's Office identified two technical amendments to the Board of Health Procedures By-law. Procedures regarding electronic participation in meetings and other technical amendments were adopted in 2023.

The 2026 review process will include:

- engaging directors of the Board of Health through a survey; and

- working with City staff to review the by-law to ensure it is consistent with best practices of other Boards at the City and other Boards of Health in Ontario.

Toronto Public Health staff will commence the by-law review in the spring of 2026 and will report to the Board of Health in Q3 2026 with the outcomes of this work. Any updates to the Ontario Public Health Standards by the Ministry of Health will be incorporated in this work.

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SIGNATURE

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