

TORONTO SHELTER BULLETIN

Bulletin No.: 2022-09
Date Issued: September 19, 2022

Bulletin Type:	General Update
Subject:	New-Harm Reduction Policy and Procedure Templates for Service Providers
Bulletin:	<p>Hello Shelter Providers,</p> <p>In June 2021, SSHA released a directive to the homelessness sector providing updated overdose prevention and response strategies and additional measures to be implemented in response to the opioid crisis. The directive requires that shelter providers have harm reduction policies and procedures in place that ensure it operates from a harm reduction approach. To support the implementation of this directive, the Shelter Harm Reduction Implementation Working Group (SHRIWG) was formed.</p> <p>In November 2021, a harm reduction self- assessment checklist was sent out to all shelters, respites and 24 hour drop-ins to gain a baseline understanding of the current level of harm reduction resources and supports already in place. Using the data from this self-assessment, 5 key priority areas for the SHRIWG were identified for 2022, which included the development of a harm reduction policy and procedure templates and guidance documents. The purpose of these templates are to provide shelter providers an example and resource to inform the critical elements that should be included in their policies and procedures. This will ensure that a harm reduction lens and approach is applied to all aspects of client care and service delivery across the homelessness sector.</p> <p>SSHA is providing the following harm reduction policy and procedure resources for shelter providers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Harm Reduction Policy Guidance Document2. General Harm Reduction Policy Template3. Overdose Prevention Policy Template4. Overdose Response & Naloxone Administration Policy Template5. Handling & Disposing of Sharps Policy Template

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We hope that the harm reduction policy and procedure resources provided will support you in further enhancing the harm reduction policy and procedures at your sites. We will continue to share other harm reduction and overdose prevention and response resources over time. You can find these templates and additional harm reduction resources at [SSHA's Harm Reduction webpage](#). The templates are located on the web page under **10 Point Plan Implementation Resources** under a new heading "**Harm Reduction Policy and Procedure Resources**".

Please contact Karen Tizzard, SSHA-Harm Reduction Program Coordinator Karen.Tizzard@toronto.ca if you have any questions or need harm reduction support.

Please ensure that this Bulletin is cascaded to all relevant staff as soon as possible, and a hard copy of this document posted in a conspicuous place for ongoing reference.

Resources: [Funding Submissions, Directives & Bulletins – City of Toronto](#)

Contact Information: For more information about this Bulletin, please contact your Agency Review Officer (ARO) or Manager.