

Date: May 16, 2024 | Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. | Location: 108 Angeline St. S., Lindsay

6. Medical Officer of Health Update

Presenter: Dr. Natalie Bocking, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Bocking provided the Board of Health with updates on the launch of the Nutritious Food Basket report, enforcement of the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA), and summer preparations.

"Addressing Food Insecurity and Poverty in the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District" 2023 report.

Food insecurity is defined as not having enough money to buy food and increases people's risk of mental health diagnoses (e.g. depression, social anxiety), infections and chronic diseases (e.g. diabetes, heart disease). Families living on low income (e.g. on social assistance, minimum wage) have little money left over, if any, to pay for other basic expenses. Food charities, such as food banks, offer only temporary solutions to food insecurity; income-based strategies that are long-term and that focus on poverty reduction are needed (e.g. adequate incomes to ensure a minimum standard of living, improving employment standards, increasing social assistance rates, and providing a basic income guarantee).

Two-year rates of food insecurity in the HKPR District area have not changed significantly. Rental costs and cost of the nutritious food basket have gone up, but people's incomes have not kept pace with general rising prices of goods and services.

The full report will be publicly launched soon. Please check the [Health Unit's website](#).

Update on enforcement of *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA)

On March 4th, 3,596 notices were sent to parents/guardians of elementary students (except Grade 3) advising them of missing immunization records. After a joint effort by parents/ guardians, school staff, and Health Unit employees, there were only 663 records outstanding as of May 14th. These 663 students have received suspension notices until their immunization records are up-to-date.

Summer preparations

The Health Protection Division has been preparing for inspections of seasonal premises, vector-borne disease surveillance (e.g. ticks, mosquitos), and emergency preparedness (e.g. extreme heat events, air quality events, power outages, etc.).

The complete update can be found [here](#) in the recorded meeting session.

7. Report

Presenters: Richard Ovcharovich, Manager, Health Protection, and Abby Tabaco, Emergency Management Health Hazard Coordinator, provided the Board of Health with a presentation on the Health Unit's role as it relates to the 2024 International Plowing Match.

The International Plowing Match is the largest event of its kind in North America, attracting on average 70,000+ people for a five-day celebration of agriculture and rural living. The event will be held in Lindsay from October 1st to 5th, 2024.

Mass gathering events require collaboration and coordination within the Health Unit and with external stakeholders as there is a potential for injuries and illness, and concentrated crowds place a strain on public health infrastructure and increase demands for services such as infectious disease monitoring, food and water surveillance, and campsite safety. Other areas where the Health Unit has a role in mass gatherings include animal bite response, enforcement of the *Smoke Free Ontario Act*, and ensuring that provisions for the sanitary disposal of solid and liquid waste are in place.

The full presentation can be read [here](#) or watched [here](#).

8. New Business

Q1-2024 Board of Health Quarterly Report Summary

Presenter: Dr. Bocking, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

[The Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability \(OPHS\)](#) outline the minimum requirements that boards of health must meet for mandatory health programs and services. Dr. Bocking provided a summary of key program achievements for the first quarter of 2024 (January 1st to March 31st) to inform the Board about activities of the organization, and so they can monitor progress of activities and ensure that the program requirements under the (OPHS) are met.

The full summary can be read [here](#).

2023 Annual Report

Presenter: Dr. Bocking, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Bocking provided an overview of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit's 2023 Annual Report.

The complete 2023 Annual Report can be read [here](#).

Meeting Summary

Board of Health

For the complete meeting details, please see the [agenda package](#) or view our video recording [online](#).

Date of Next Meeting

June 20, 2024, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, Port Hope Office, 200 Rose Glen Road, Port Hope.