

Date: November 16, 2023 | Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. | Location: Lindsay office

6. Medical Officer of Health Update

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

2023/2024 Fall Respiratory Season:

Dr. Bocking communicated that there has been a surge in hospital admissions recently. Fall 2023 is mirroring a more typical respiratory season, as opposed to what we saw during the pandemic.

Below is snapshot of activity:

COVID-19

- 22 outbreaks
- 22 hospital admissions
- 4 deaths

Influenza

- 6 lab-confirmed cases

Residents are encouraged to:

- 1) Stay up to date with immunizations (COVID-19, influenza, RSV)
- 2) Know whether you are eligible for treatment (COVID-19 and influenza).
- 3) Stay home if you are sick.
- 4) Wear a mask if you are at risk of developing severe illness or if you are recovering from a respiratory infection (up to 10 days after the start of symptoms).

7. Report – Small Drinking Water Systems

Presenter: Bernie Mayer, Manager, Health Protection

The Small Drinking Water Systems (SDWS) program is a requirement under the Ontario Public Health Standards and is detailed in Ontario regulation to protect the population from waterborne infections and provide leadership to communities related to drinking water.

Health units are responsible for the inspection of small drinking water systems (SDWS) in the following locations:

- Food service establishments

- Places that operate primarily for the purpose of providing overnight accommodation to the travelling public
- Trailer parks and campgrounds
- Marinas
- Places of worship
- Recreational camps
- Recreational or athletic facilities
- Places, other than private residences, where a service club or fraternal organization meets on a regular basis
- Any place where the general public has access to a washroom, drinking water fountain, or shower

Public Health Inspectors have many duties to perform under the SDWS program including:

- Maintaining an inventory of SDWS in the Health Unit's jurisdiction
- Conducting inspections and risk assessments at a prescribed frequency
- Issuing a new Directive after each risk assessment completed
- [Disclosing inspection reports to the public](#)
- Conducting re-inspections and following up for non-compliance
- Responding to all SDWS adverse water quality incidents (AWQIs)
- Conducting inspection and risk assessments of new SDWS and issuing directives
- Meeting with new owners of SDWS when there is a change in ownership to ensure they are aware of their obligations
- Conducting sampling compliance checks every 3 months and issuing warning letters for non-compliance with sampling requirements (Enforcement may occur for repeat offenders)
- Conducting inventory-wide mailouts to seasonal operators and reminding operators of their required training

The HKPR District Health Unit is responsible for assessing and inspecting over 900 SDWS. This number is due to the large geography covered by the Health Unit, the volume of seasonal recreational properties, fewer municipal services provided to towns and villages, and municipal plans not optimizing current municipal water services as part of development plans in accordance with the provincial policy statement.

In 2024, 600 SDWS within the counties of Northumberland and Haliburton, and the City of Kawartha Lakes will require a risk assessment and inspection.

8. New Business

8.1 Corporate Services Updates

Presenter: Matthew Vrooman, Director of Corporate Services

Unaudited Monthly Operating Statements

Based on Mr. Vrooman's update, the Board passed a motioned that the draft unaudited operating statements for the ten-month period ending October 31, 2023, in the amount of \$18,067,718, be received for information.

Statements by division and expense can be viewed [here](#).

Reports Submitted to the Ministry of Health:

The following report was recently submitted to the Ministry of Health:

Q3-2023 Standards Activity Report

- Reports on Q1-Q3 Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) program expenditures and end of year forecast (currently forecasting to spend 100% of budget)
- Includes preliminary program data for immunization services, school health, and oral health screening
- Reports on Board of Health risk register as per Ministry risk management framework

Risk Management

The Ontario Public Health Standards state that boards of health are accountable for achieving a high standard and quality of practice in the delivery of public health programs and services, including the requirement to have a formal risk management framework in place that identifies, assesses, and addresses risk. Progress on the high-risk categories that are being managed is reportable on every third quarter Standards Activity Report, which was submitted to the Ministry on October 31, 2023.

The full report can be found [here](#).

8.2 2024 Budget Development

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

Dr. Bocking provided the Board of Health with context for development of the 2024 Budget. The final budget will be presented to the Board for approval at its December 7th meeting. Dr. Bocking's full report can be found [here](#).

8.3 Support for Bill 103, *Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids) 2023*

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

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are addicting youth to nicotine at an alarming rate. Between 2017-2019, vaping rates doubled among Ontario students in grades 7-12. This is particularly

concerning when considering the highly addictive effects of nicotine in e-cigarettes is associated with an increased risk for future tobacco cigarette use among youth who vape (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, 2018). Further, there are significant health risks associated with youth vaping because of the toxic and carcinogenic substances in devices including lung damage, changes to the brain, burns, dependence or addiction, difficulty learning, and increased anxiety and stress.

Based on the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (2021), 26.4 % of students grade 7-12 have tried vaping by e-cigarettes in their lifetime. Among those that had vaped in the last year, over 84% report vaping nicotine. The *Smoke Free Ontario Amendments Act*, Bill 103 will address the following:

1. Prohibiting the promotion of vapour products.
2. Amending the legal age to purchase products to 21 years old and above.
3. Prohibiting vapour flavouring and restrict high concentration vapour products.
4. Restricting vapour products to being sold at specialty vape stores or designated stores in remote/rural communities, with approval from the Board of Health. Selling or offering to sell vapour products online be prohibited.
5. Minister provided the ability to direct tax revenue from vapour product sales at specialty stores to be used for education on the health risks of vaping.
6. Require Ontario Health prepare an annual report to the Ministry on youth vaping with recommendations to the Minister in developing policies.

Through policy, we can limit youth access to such products and reduce their use and the eventual health impacts associated with vapour use.

The full briefing note and draft letter of support, which was approved by the Board of Health, can be found [here](#).

8.4 Strengthening Public Health – Voluntary Mergers

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

Dr. Bocking shared a memo from Dr. Keiren Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, and a slide deck outlining the province's three-pronged strategy to optimize capacity, stability, and sustainability in public health.

Please see the [memo](#) and the [slide deck](#) for more information.

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

Meeting Summary

Board of Health

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, December 7, 2023, 9:30am – 11:30am, Dalewood Golf Club, 7465 Dale Road, Cobourg