

**Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care**

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HLTC2976IT-2015-268

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Board of Health Chairs and Medical Officers of Health

**FROM:** Dr. Eric Hoskins  
Minister  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

**RE:** Amended Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) and related Protocols

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I am releasing amendments to the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) and related Protocols under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, including the following:

- Revised Child Health Standard and new Healthy Smiles Ontario Program Protocol to reflect that the newly integrated Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) Program is now a mandatory program and will be funded at 100% of the ministry's approved allocation for public health delivery of this program.
- Establishing a new Electronic Cigarettes Compliance Protocol and amending the Tobacco Compliance Protocol to provide direction to boards of health to implement and enforce the *Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2015* (ECA) coming into effect on January 1, 2016 and amendments to the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* (SFOA) resulting from the passage of the *Making Healthier Choices Act* (MHCA).

**Healthy Smiles Ontario**

In December 2013, the Ontario government announced its intent to integrate six dental benefits and/or programs for children and youth from low income families into one new program with simplified eligibility requirements and enrolment processes, and improved access for eligible children and youth. January's launch of the newly integrated Healthy Smiles Ontario Program meets one of the key priorities identified in the Poverty Reduction Strategy announced in 2008. The new integrated program will help reduce inequalities and improve oral health status and oral health outcomes for clients.

## **Smoke-Free Ontario Act and the Electronic Cigarettes Act**

On May 28, 2015, the *Making Healthier Choices Act, 2015* received Royal Assent. The Bill included amendments to the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* and new legislation to regulate the sale, promotion and use of electronic cigarettes in Ontario – the *Electronic Cigarettes Act* (ECA). The OPHS have been revised and a new protocol created to facilitate implementation of the ECA which came into force January 1, 2016.

All revised documents are effective immediately. They are attached for your reference and will be available in English and French through the OPHS website:  
[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph\\_standards/](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/).

I would like to express my thanks to you and your staff for your ongoing work in upholding the OPHS and Protocols to ensure the continued strength of the public health system in Ontario.

If you have any questions regarding the changes please do not hesitate to contact the ministry by e-mail at [OPHS.Protocols.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:OPHS.Protocols.moh@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Dr. Eric Hoskins

c: Dr. Robert Bell, Deputy Minister  
Dr. David C. Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Roselle Martino, Assistant Deputy Minister, Population and Public Health Division