

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	September 17, 2018
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Ontario Public Health Standards Transparency Framework (BOH18030) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Carolyn Hureau (905) 546-2424, Ext. 4300
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SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Not Applicable

Information:

Background

The Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) includes a Transparency Framework, as outlined in Report (BOH17010(c)). The framework (Appendix A) outlines the information Boards of Health are required to share publicly. This framework was introduced to promote public confidence in the public health system through mandatory disclosure of the work that public health does to protect and promote individual and community health. In addition to meeting the OPHS, the framework also supports the City of Hamilton's direction towards enhanced transparency and building trust and confidence among Hamilton residents. As well, public disclosure helps people to make informed decisions to protect their health.

The Transparency Framework consists of two domains:

- 1) Public Reporting; and,
- 2) Protecting the Public's Health.

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At this time, the Board of Health is fully compliant with the requirements in the Public Reporting domain and partially compliant with those in the Protecting the Public's Health domain. This report describes how the requirements within each domain are currently being met and outlines the actions needed to ensure full compliance by 2019.

Public Reporting

The Transparency Framework requires boards of health to demonstrate to the public how they are responding to local community needs through the public posting of the public health unit's strategic plan. The multi-year business plan acts as the strategic plan for the Board of Health and is available on the City of Hamilton website at <https://www.hamilton.ca/budget-finance/multi-year-business-plans>. The multi-year business plans are reviewed and updated annually.

It is also required that an annual performance and financial report is posted on the board of health website. In 2017, a Public Health Annual Report was created containing information on the health of the population in Hamilton, highlights from program areas, performance results and financial information. This report is available on the City of Hamilton website at <https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health/reporting>. A similar report will be generated and posted each year to ensure compliance with this requirement.

Protecting the Public's Health

The purpose of this domain is to increase public awareness of the work public health does to protect and promote both individual and community health. To achieve this, boards of health are required to disclose inspection results and convictions listed in Appendix A on their public websites by 2019.

At this time, the Board of Health is partially compliant with this requirement by making the following information available to the public on the City of Hamilton website:

- Routine inspections for food premises;
- Infection prevention and control lapses;
- Drinking water advisories for small drinking water systems; and,
- Status of beach water quality.

However, currently, there is no data posted publicly on convictions of tobacco and e-cigarette retailers or inspections for:

- Food premises (complaint-based);
- Public pools and spas;
- Personal services settings;
- Tanning beds;
- Recreational camps;

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- Licensed child care settings; and,
- Small drinking water systems.

To become compliant with the disclosure requirements above, work is being done in collaboration with Information Technology Services and Digital Communications to develop processes for posting all required inspection and conviction data on the City of Hamilton website. As of January 7, 2019, required information will be made available through the Health Inspection Results webpage at <https://www.hamilton.ca/healthinspections>.

The Health Inspection Results webpage will include:

- Name of the premise inspected;
- Premise address;
- Date and type of inspection and / or conviction; and,
- Inspection results.

In addition, the Health Inspection Results webpage will have links to:

- Relevant regulations;
- Operating a Business webpage containing specific information for each inspection type; and,
- Public Health contact information.

As required by the Ontario Public Health Standards, all results will be posted within two weeks of the inspection and/or conviction date and will remain posted for a two-year period.

Given that online disclosure of health inspections is a new practice for public health and premise owner/operators, a communication plan will be implemented in the fourth quarter to support stakeholders and see this initiative to success. Overall, the communication plan will aim to raise awareness about the new disclosure requirements among the premise owners/operators, general public, and City of Hamilton staff. A variety of communication methods will be used to inform owners/operators of the specific disclosure requirements related to their type of premise. This will include direct mail to all owners/operators, and opportunities to connect directly with Public Health staff to have their questions answered.

The revised disclosure webpage (<https://www.hamilton.ca/healthinspections>) with all of the required inspection and conviction information will be launched January 7, 2019.

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Appendices and Schedules Attached

Appendix A to BOH18030 – Ontario Public Health Standards Transparency Framework
Disclosure and Reporting Requirements