



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 15, 2019
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Communications Policy Between Medical Officer of Health and Board of Health (BOH19011) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Mandy Dhaliwal (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2579
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SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

On October 12, 2006 the Board of Health approved a Communication between Medical Officer of Health & Board of Health policy (PH06038) which detailed types of communication between the Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Health.

INFORMATION

The Communication between Medical Officer of Health & Board of Health policy was approved by the Board of Health in 2006 and outlined communication expectations in the following areas:

- Board of Health orientation;
- Public Health Services' Program & Resource updates; and,
- Incident communications related to communicable disease and health hazard investigations.

Since 2006, there have been many changes to the public health landscape. This includes the introduction of many governance and reporting requirements through the Ontario Public Health Standards to increase accountability and transparency of public health units across the province. These requirements now address many of the areas previously outlined in the Communication between Medical Officer of Health & Board of Health policy. As a result, this policy will be archived. Current communication requirements in each area are outlined below:

Board of Health Orientation

Through the Ontario Public Health Standards, it is an organizational requirement that members of boards of health are aware of their roles and responsibilities, and emerging issues and trends in public health, through the development and implementation of a comprehensive orientation plan for new board members, and a continuing education program for all board members. Public Health Services' ensures that orientation is provided for all Board of Health members every four years following the Municipal election. The orientation format and material are informed by the needs of current board members through Board of Health self-evaluations which are conducted every other year. Continuing education is provided to members of the Board of Health on an ongoing basis through reports and presentations delivered during Board of Health meetings.

Public Health Program and Resource Updates

As a requirement of the Ontario Public Health Standards, all boards of health must approve and submit each year to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) an Annual Service Plan and Budget. The Annual Service Plan and Budget must include population health data, detailed program plans, budgeted expenditures and requests for additional base and one-time funding. Boards of health must also report on financial performance quarterly and program performance semi-annually to the MOHLTC. Public Health Services will continue to bring forward to the Board of Health service delivery, funding or staffing changes in-year as they occur.

Public Health Services is committed to communicating to the Board of Health about media releases, emerging issues, public meetings, etc. in between meetings as they occur via email, in person or information update.

Incident Communications related to Communicable Disease and Health Hazard Investigations

Public Health Services updates the Board of Health during emergencies that have a public health impact or situations that affect the ability to deliver critical public health programs and services via email, in person, or information update. Public Health Services will also provide a summary of the data related to communicable disease and health hazard investigations and complaints on a semi-annual basis. All reports will be consistent with Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA) standards in respect to personal health information.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report BOH19011: Communication Policy for Medical Officer of Health and Board of Health