



CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Hamilton Paramedic Service

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	September 24, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Flu Immunization Program (HSC20042) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Michael Sanderson (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7741
SUBMITTED BY:	Paul Johnson General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Hamilton Paramedic Service provide mobile influenza immunization clinics for a period of 60 days, commencing October 15, 2020, in cooperation with CityHousing Hamilton and under the guidance of Hamilton Public Health, be approved; and,
- (b) That the Hamilton Paramedic Service pursue any available funding sources to cover the cost of providing the mobile influenza immunization clinics.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The normal annual influenza (flu) season is expected to create additional pressures with the international COVID-19 pandemic which is expected to continue through the fall and winter. We anticipate the presence of both influenza and COVID-19 will create an upsurge in flu immunization demand, particularly in elderly, immunocompromised, and other population groups that are more susceptible to both influenza and COVID-19.

With the support and guidance of Hamilton Public Health, and funding from the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN) Emergency Services Steering Committee (ESSC), the Community Paramedic (CP) program has delivered flu vaccinations to CityHousing Hamilton residents for the past two years with excellent results and feedback from the Residents.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

For the 2020 Flu season we are seeking continuation of appropriately trained paramedics again delivering the service to vulnerable and elderly populations. As in the past, our proposed 60 day workplan includes ongoing liaison with CityHousing Hamilton and the establishment of mobile flu immunization clinics focussed on vulnerable populations including, but not limited to, the nine existing Community Paramedicine @Clinic locations. The program will target an average of 40 immunizations per day over the period.

Funding from Ontario Health West, which now is responsible for the former HNHB LHIN activities, will be pursued. In the absence of Ontario Health funding, we propose to provide the service as a potential cost overrun to the Hamilton Paramedic Service 2020 operating budget.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Backfill cost of the two paramedics for 60 days is estimated at \$40,437 including an allocation for benefits or payment in lieu of benefits.

Staffing: Paramedics will be reassigned from current duties and backfilled by other available staff.

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

CP has delivered flu vaccinations to CityHousing Hamilton residents for the past two years with excellent results and feedback from the Residents. For 2020, CP seeks to continue delivering the service to this vulnerable and, often, elderly population.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

None

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The Health Promotion and Immunization Committee, chaired by Public Health, is aware of and supports this program.

Hamilton Paramedic Service has consulted with Public Health, CityHousing Hamilton, and Finance. All have indicated agreement with the recommendation as stated

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Residents in social housing are challenged with lack of access to transportation resulting in in-equitable access to health services such as vaccinations. In the context of COVID-19 vaccine delivery guidelines and the possibility of a second wave, this challenge may be further exacerbated for the Residents thereby putting them at increased risk for adverse health events.

Initial planning indicates that six vaccines/hour can be delivered while conforming to the recent COVID-19 vaccine delivery guidelines. If clinics are offered to various locations over a 7 hours/day time period, this provides the capacity of delivering 40 vaccines/day or 2,400 vaccines over a 60-day period.

The following steps have already been taken or are in progress to facilitate this project:

1. Approval has been received from the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (completed).
2. Simulated runs have been performed to confirm process meets vaccine delivery guidelines.
3. Site visits to CHH locations to ensure ability to meet vaccine delivery guidelines are in process, estimated completion by end of September
4. Community Paramedic staff have previously been trained and authorized by the Medical Director to perform the immunizations.
5. Medication supply chain management procedures have been previously established under the guidance of Hamilton Public Health.

To administer the above programs two full time staff qualified and trained as Community Paramedics will be reassigned from front line paramedic duties to the flu immunization project for 60 days. This dedicated staffing will provide clinic availability for up to 12 hours per day, seven days a week, commencing October 15, 2020.

There will be no reduction in front line paramedic capacity as the two paramedics assigned to this duty will be replaced by part time staff.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN**Healthy and Safe Communities**

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Built Environment and Infrastructure

Hamilton is supported by state of the art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

Culture and Diversity

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

Our People and Performance

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None