

October 4, 2024

Marnie Cluckie
City Manager, City of Hamilton
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Marnie,

In response to the discussions at the Monday, September 30, Public Health Committee meeting regarding the installation of harm-reduction vending machines at Mohawk College, I want to provide the City of Hamilton and Council with an overview of the Healthbox project at Mohawk College to clarify any misconceptions generated through the initial presentation.

By way of background, Mohawk College is working with the Greater Hamilton Health Network, Hamilton Public Health and Hamilton Health Sciences on this project as a way to further promote and support student health. Our plan is to have two Healthbox machines at the college, one at our Fennell campus and another at our Stoney Creek campus. No machines have been installed yet, and at this time, we do not have a date for when they will be installed.

The Healthbox machines on our campuses will not offer safe inhalation or safe injection supplies including drug paraphernalia (i.e. crack pipes, meth bowls, needles, etc.). There were never any plans to include those items in the Healthboxes to be found on our campuses.

The contents of the Healthbox machines at Mohawk College will be geared towards our student population and include items such as health promotion materials including literature, videos and online resources; feminine hygiene products; personal care items (i.e. toothpaste, soap, etc.); and safe sex supplies (i.e. condoms). Most of the supplies that will be included in the Healthbox machines are already available on campus through our health and wellness centre.

The Healthbox machines provide an alternate way for students to access these supplies and are another way for our Health and Wellness team to connect with students on the services they offer. As the Healthbox machines are intended as a service for Mohawk College students, both machines will be located inside our campuses and will only be available during regular operating hours.

I hope this overview clarifies and alleviates any concerns the City and Councillors may have regarding the Healthbox project. Should you have any questions regarding this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Katie Burrows
Vice President, Students and International

CC: Regina Foisey
Jason Pope