

2022 Community Report

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

Meeting Date: June 7, 2023

Report No. BH.01.JUN0723.R21 Pages: 5

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Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board of Health receive this report for information.

Key Points

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) Public Health's 2022 Community Report benefits the public and community partners by promoting transparency, informed decision making, community engagement, awareness, and the ability to track progress and celebrate success in improving public health outcomes.

Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) has a Transparency Framework with the stated goal that the Board of Health will:

Promote awareness, understanding, and public confidence in Ontario's public health system by ensuring the public knows how Boards of Health are responding to local community needs and that the Board of Health posts on their website both a Strategic Plan and an annual performance and financial report.¹

Background

WDG has over a decade of annual Community Reports highlighting the yearly accomplishments of individual programs, Agency milestones and innovation in responding to community health. Each year's report contains a financial overview with fully audited financial statements available upon request. The annual report fulfills, in part, the OPHS Transparency Framework while documenting the ongoing work of Public Health on a yearly basis.

Discussion

The 2022 Community Report continues to fulfill the goal of promoting public awareness and confidence by highlighting:

1. **Transparency and Accountability:** The Community Report demonstrates transparency by providing an overview of activities, achievements, and challenges. This Report highlights programs that have been restarted after the Agency has been focused almost exclusively on the pandemic and highlights non-COVID issues from 2022 while discussing the ongoing response to COVID.
2. **Informed Decision Making:** The Community Report highlights the data dashboards that provide the public and community partners assurance that the Agency is making evidence-based decisions regarding the health and well-being of individuals and communities.
3. **Community Engagement:** The Community Report highlights matters that were of concern to the public in 2022 such as Mpox (Monkeypox), resumption of dental health programming, vaccine rollout (Flu and COVID-19), inspections of food service venues and training of community partners in infection protection. The Report also highlights opportunities for collaboration and community input with the goal of fostering a sense of ownership and shared responsibility for community health.

4. **Awareness and Education:** The Community Report provides an opportunity to raise awareness about public health issues, initiatives, and services. By disseminating this information, the Report educates the public and community partners on available services, preventive measures, and health promotion activities. This increased awareness helps individuals and communities make informed choices to protect and improve their health.

The 2022 Community Report is an important flagship publication that shares the overall activity and values of the Agency and can be a future reference point when looking back on 2022.

The Report will be promoted through social media posts and on the WDGP website as well as being sent to key partners including the Minister of Health, all Medical Officers of Health and Public Health Agencies across the province. The Report is not an exhaustive list of all activities undertaken in a given year as all programs report separately to the Ministry of Health or other funders regarding their performance. The Community Report is the public document of record of WDG Public Health's activities and priorities in 2022.

Health Equity Implications

The Community Report is for all members of the community and all WDG Public Health partners. As such it is written in plain language with graphics and layout that consider AODA standards. The Report can be made into an accessible format that meets the needs of any individual request for accommodation.

Conclusion

Overall, when members of the public and community partners receive the 2022 Community Report, they will have a greater sense of the benefits provided by WDG Public Health and the recognition of their involvement in the work of the Agency. Readers of the Community Report will have a better understanding of the priorities that evolve annually, and the evidence-based decisions made in response to those priorities.

Ontario Public Health Standards

Foundational Standards

- ☐ Population Health Assessment
- ☐ Health Equity
- ☒ Effective Public Health Practice
- ☐ Emergency Management

Program Standards

- ☐ Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being
- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Healthy Environments
- ☐ Healthy Growth and Development
- ☐ Immunization
- ☐ Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control
- ☐ Safe Water
- ☐ School Health
- ☐ Substance Use and Injury Prevention

2023 WDGPH Strategic Directions

- ☒ **People & Culture:** WDGPH has an organizational culture of engagement, inclusion and agility.
- ☒ **Partner Relations:** WDGPH collaborates with partners to address priority health issues in the community.
- ☒ **Health System Change:** WDGPH is positioned to be an agent of change within the broader health sector.

References

1. Ontario. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability. [Internet] 2021 June. [cited 31 May 2023]. Available from: https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/protocols_guidelines/Ontario_Public_Health_Standards_2021.pdf

Appendices

Appendix A

The full 2022 Community Report can be found here:

<https://wdgpublichealth.ca/sites/default/files/wdgph-community-report-2022- final.pdf>