

Health Protection Annual Service Plan COVID-19 Disruption

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

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Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board of Health:

1. Receive this report for information.
2. Acknowledge the impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 Health Protection Division Annual Service Plan.

Key Points

- Time-critical health protection interventions have been maintained.
- Non-critical health protection services have been postponed.
- Postponing health protection services will impact 2020 Annual Service Plan compliance.

Discussion

Health Protection Annual Service Plan interventions assessed as not time-critical for immediate life-safety have been postponed. The tables, below, indicate whether or not an intervention is critical for life-safety. If deemed critical, the activity was maintained or enhanced to support COVID-19 response. Postponed interventions will be restored once public closure of various settings re-open in accordance with the *Framework for Re-opening our Province*.¹

Annual Service Plan Intervention Status

Food Safety Interventions:	<i>Critical</i>	<i>Postponed</i>
Investigate Complaints/Sampling	Yes	No
Food Safety Recalls	Yes	No
Surveillance	Yes	No
Inspections (High risk inspections completed between Jan-April 2020)	No	Yes
Consultations	No	Yes
Food Handler training	No	Yes
Public Disclosure	No	Yes
Enforcement	No	Yes

Healthy Menu Choices Act Interventions:	Critical	Postponed
Inspection	No	Yes
Re-inspection	No	Yes
Complaint investigation	No	Yes

Rabies Interventions:	<i>Critical</i>	<i>Postponed</i>
Investigation	Yes	No
Initiate Rabies Testing/Sample Submission	Yes	No
Post-Exposure Rabies Prophylaxis	Yes	No
Partner Communication	No	Yes
Low Cost Rabies Clinics	No	Yes

Health Hazard Management Interventions:	<i>Critical</i>	<i>Postponed</i>
Health hazard investigations	Yes	No
Seasonal farm workers' housing	Yes	No
Climate change vulnerability assessment (External funded contract)	No	No
Extreme heat and cold	No	Yes
Radon exposure prevention	No	Yes
Existing and new contaminated sites	No	Yes

Safe Water Interventions:	<i>Critical</i>	<i>Postponed</i>
Adverse water quality incidents response	Yes	No
Management of complaints	Yes	No
Management of drinking water complaints	Yes	No
Private Well Water Sampling	Yes	No
WISE platform development (WDGPH funded contract)	No	No
Recreational water inspections (Pools closed)	No	Yes
Recreational camp inspections (Camps closed)	No	Yes
Education	No	Yes
Recreational water Consultations	No	Yes
Public Disclosure	No	Yes

Small Drinking Water Systems Interventions:	<i>Critical</i>	<i>Postponed</i>
Adverse water quality incident(s) response	Yes	No
Small Drinking Water Systems inspections	No	Yes
Public Disclosure	No	Yes

Smoke Free Ontario Act Enforcement Interventions:	<i>Critical</i>	<i>Postponed</i>
Youth access inspections	No	Yes
Display and promotion inspections	No	Yes
Secondary school inspections	No	Yes
Complaint inspections	No	Yes
Enforcement	No	Yes
Promotion	No	Yes
Tobacconist/specialty vape store registration	No	Yes

Vector Borne Disease Interventions:	<i>Critical</i>	<i>Postponed</i>
Surveillance	Yes	No
Vector Control (WDGPH funded contract)	Yes	No
Partner outreach/education	No	Yes
Communications	No	Yes
Tick Identification workshops	No	Yes
OneHealth Awareness	No	Yes

Infectious Disease Interventions:	<i>Critical</i>	<i>Postponed</i>
Case Management	Yes	No
Contact management	Yes	No
Reporting Line for Diseases of PHS, Outbreaks, IPAC	Yes	No
Physician Advisories/LTCHs/Retirement Homes/Hospitals Health Alerts	Yes	No
Reporting into Provincial Database (iPHIS)	Yes	No
Investigate community outbreaks (suspected/confirmed)	Yes	No
Collaboration on Provincial or National Disease Investigations	No	Yes
Public Education/resource development	No	Yes
Partner/Collaborate with University of Guelph and with veterinarians	No	Yes

All Health Protection Management, Public Health Inspectors (PHIs), Public Health Nurses (PHNs) and Program Assistants (PAs) have been deployed to support COVID-19 activities using the Incident Management System (IMS). These activities include roles as Liaison between WDGPH and other sectors/agencies, Case Management, Inspection and Enforcement work, Congregate Setting Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) activities and COVID-19 swab Logistics.

As Stage One of the *Framework for Re-opening our Province* has been activated, a shift in resource allocation is being planned.¹ To support the reopening of our communities, PHIs and PHNs will be tasked with an increasing need for community-based IPAC assessments and conducting regulatory compliance inspections. Immediate public safety needs will be addressed as a priority through existing regulatory tools and provincial standards.

Stage Two of the Provincial Framework is anticipated to be announced in June if cases continue to decline. This phase may consider larger public gatherings that may have an increased public health presence and more workplaces may open with continued physical distancing, handwashing and other mitigation practices to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

Stage Three of the Provincial Framework is anticipated to be announced by mid-summer 2020 seeing all workplaces open responsibly. Larger public gatherings will continue to be restricted.

Longer-term program planning for the remainder of the year will be dependent on COVID-19 activity and a continued reduction in confirmed cases.

Conclusion

All Health Protection Division staff have been deployed to support COVID-19 activities. In doing so, time-critical health protection services have been maintained to protect the public against immediate public health threats such as: reportable disease investigations, rabies prevention investigations, IPAC lapse investigations and the ability to respond to adverse water quality incidents to name a few. Non-critical health protection services have been postponed, which will impact on complying with the 2020 Annual Service Plan Accountability Agreement.

Ontario Public Health Standard

- [Electronic Cigarettes Protocol, 2018](#) [PDF]
- [Food Safety Protocol, 2019](#) [PDF]
- [Health Hazard Response Protocol, 2019](#) [PDF]
- [Infection Prevention and Control Complaint Protocol, 2019](#) [PDF]
- [Infection Prevention and Control Disclosure Protocol, 2019](#) [PDF]
- [Infection Prevention and Control Protocol, 2019](#) [PDF]
- [Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2018](#) (Date of Release: February 5, 2018)
- [Institutional/Facility Outbreak Management Protocol, 2018](#) [PDF]
- [Menu Labelling Protocol, 2018](#) [PDF]
- [Rabies Prevention and Control Protocol, 2019](#) [PDF]
- [Recreational Water Protocol, 2019](#) [PDF]
- [Safe Drinking Water and Fluoride Monitoring Protocol, 2019](#) [PDF]
- [Tanning Beds Protocol, 2019](#) [PDF]
- [Tobacco Protocol, 2018](#) [PDF]
- [Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Protocol, 2018](#) [PDF]

WDGPH Strategic Direction(s)

- ☒ **Health Equity:** We will provide programs and services that integrate health equity principles to reduce or eliminate health differences between population groups.
- ☒ **Organizational Capacity:** We will improve our capacity to effectively deliver public health programs and services.
- ☒ **Service Centred Approach:** We are committed to providing excellent service to anyone interacting with WDG Public Health.
- ☒ **Building Healthy Communities:** We will work with communities to support the health and well-being of everyone.

Health Equity

Health equity is the condition where everyone can attain their full health potential and are not disadvantaged due to their social position or other socially determined circumstances.

Health Protection has maintained health equity by focusing on time-critical service delivery such as: rabies prevention, reportable disease and health hazard programs, through business continuity planning.

Health Protection staff have been able to respond to health hazard and infection control complaints, non-COVID-19 infectious disease threats and have maintained adverse water quality incident reporting response capacity. In addition, all high-risk food premises received a food safety inspection between January and March in preparation for pandemic response. A second round of food safety inspections is planned between May and August for businesses that operate as take-out with COVID-19 restrictions.

References

1. Ontario. Framework for Re-opening our Province. [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2020 May 19]. Available from: <https://files.ontario.ca/mof-framework-for-reopening-our-province-en-2020-04-27.pdf>

Appendices

N/A.