

Emergency Preparedness Update

2017

TO:	Board of Health
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Key Points

- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) maintains an established and comprehensive emergency management program for the purpose of preparing for, and responding to, any community health emergency or an emergency with health impacts, as well as to internal emergencies that may impact the ability of agency to carry out its regular business.
- This is operationalized by implementing and maintaining the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) – Emergency Preparedness Protocol 8 requirements.

Strategic Directions & Goals

Building Healthy Communities - We will work with communities to support the health and well-being of everyone.

- We will enhance our understanding of the local needs and priorities of the communities we serve and develop programs and services in response to those needs.

Service Centred Approach - We are committed to providing excellent service to anyone interacting with public health.

- We will increase community awareness of public health programs and services.

Organizational Capacity - We will improve our capacity to effectively deliver public health programs and services.

- We will support a work culture of continuous learning.
- We will implement processes for continuous quality improvement (CQI).

Operational Plan Objectives

WDGPH recognizes that a prompt, efficient response to emergency situations is an important component of maintaining the health and safety of all employees and the communities we serve. It is the goal of WDGPH to have the necessary equipment and trained personnel organized and available to respond effectively to a wide range of emergencies. WDGPH shall establish and maintain a comprehensive emergency management program for the purpose of preparing for, and responding to, any community health emergency or an emergency with health impacts, as well as to internal emergencies that may impact the ability of agency to carry out its regular business.

This is operationalized by implementing the 8 requirements of the OPHS – Emergency Preparedness Protocol, as outlined under Requirements below.

As part of the new OPHS, the Emergency Preparedness Protocol has proposed changes. But, to date, the only high-level proposed changes that have been communicated, thus far, are the following:

- (a) The name Emergency Preparedness be change to Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery;
- (b) Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery becomes a foundational standard from a protocol; and
- (c) The forthcoming ministry policy for a ready and resilient health system will include direction for the establishment of emergency management practices.

Summary of OPHS Program Requirements

OPHS Program: Emergency Preparedness

Goals:

- To enable and ensure a consistent and effective response to public health emergencies and emergencies with public health impacts.

Strategy:

- Research and Knowledge Exchange
- Surveillance
- Health Protection

Requirements:

- Assess the relevant hazards and risks to the public's health.
- Develop a continuity of operations plan.
- Develop an emergency response plan.
- Develop, implement and document 24/7 notification protocols.
- Increase public awareness regarding Public Health emergency preparedness activities.

- Ensure the provision of emergency preparedness and response education and training for board of health staff.
- Ensure that its officials are oriented on the board of health's emergency response plan.
- Exercise, in whole or in part, the continuity of operations plan, emergency response plan, and the 24/7 notification procedures.

Accountability Indicators:

- None.

Performance variance or discrepancy identified:

- None.

Highlights

Background

This report provides an update on key Emergency Preparedness activities that occurred in 2017.

2017 Accomplishments

Assess the relevant hazards and risks to the public's health.

- Finalized review of section B - Hazards Identification, Assessment and Procedures of the Emergency Response Plan.

Develop a continuity of operations plan.

- Developed a working draft of Section D – Continuity of Operations Plan of the Emergency Response Plan with planned completion in 2018.

Develop an emergency response plan.

- Finalized review of the majority of the Emergency Response Plan and supporting Sections.
- Two supporting sections remain in working draft review progress with planned completion in early 2018.

Develop, implement and document 24/7 notification protocols.

- The Health Protection Division continuously maintains/monitors the 24/7 notification protocols that are currently in place.
- Lead by the Health Protection Division a 24/7 notification working group was formed and continues to review existing 24/7 notification protocols for improvement.

Increase public awareness regarding Public Health emergency preparedness activities.

- Increased awareness through involvement in the Municipalities and City of Guelph annual emergency planning meetings.
- The municipalities focused their annual 2017 training/exercises for their internal staff.

- Public health played a role in the city of Guelph annual exercise at the end of 2017 which focused on a cyber-attack to the city.

Ensure the provision of emergency preparedness and response education and training for board of health staff.

- Mandatory awareness training for all staff was provided on the revised Emergency Response Codes and Safety Pendant policy and procedure.

Exercise, in whole or in part, the continuity of operations plan, emergency response plan, and the 24/7 notification procedures.

- The Emergency Response Plan was activated and IMS implemented to manage a Health Protection dental lapse incident at the Agency level. An actual incident where the Emergency Response Plan is activated fulfils the requirement for an annual exercise.

Related Reports

None.