



TO: Chair and Members of the Governance Committee

FROM: Chris Mackie, Medical Officer of Health, Michael Clarke, CEO (Interim)

DATE: 2021 February 18

2020 RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Governance Committee:

- 1) *Receive Report No. 05-21GC for information;*
- 2) *Recommend that the Board of Health approve the 2020 Middlesex-London Health Unit Risk Management Report ([Appendix A](#)).*

Key Points

- In September 2018, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced that public health units would be required to submit a new Risk Management Report as part of the Q3 Standards Activity Report (SAR).
- The purpose is for boards of health to report in a standardized manner the high risks that are currently being managed at each board of health. The report is in alignment with board of health requirements under the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) and the approved Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) [Risk Management Policy \(G-120\)](#).
- The 2020 MLHU Risk Management Report ([Appendix A](#)) was prepared by staff and submitted to the ministry on February 12th in draft form, pending Board of Health approval. Through successful mitigation, seven (7) of the high risks identified in 2019 no longer constitute a high risk to organizational objectives. A summary of current and previous high risks and key mitigations are included in Appendices [A](#) and [B](#) respectively.

Background

In January 2018, the Ministry of Health (MoH) implemented modernized Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) and introduced new accountability and reporting tools required under the Public Health Accountability Framework.

The ministry has continued to evaluate and refine the accountability and reporting tools, and in September 2018, announced that a new annual Risk Management Report would be required as part of the Q3 Standards Activity Report.

The OPHS require boards of health to have a formal risk management framework in place that identifies, assesses, and addresses risks. The new Risk Management Report summarizes high risks and key mitigations reported to the Board of Health as required by the OPHS.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, organizational capacity challenges necessitated a request to the MoH to delay the timing of the Q3 Risk Management report submission, which was granted until the end of Q1 2021.

Risk Assessment

Risk assessment and mitigation occurs at the organization, program, and project levels on a continuous basis according to the process outlined in the approved MLHU [Risk Management Policy \(G-120\)](#), and the Board of Health is kept informed of identified high risks and key mitigations.

In preparing the 2020 MLHU Risk Management Report, previously identified high risks were re-assessed to determine the current residual risk and mitigations, and consultation occurred to identify any new high risks.

A total of seven (7) high risks were identified in the 2020 MLHU Risk Management Report ([Appendix A](#)), in contrast to eight (8) high risks the previous year. Through successful mitigation or significant changes in the external landscape in 2020, seven (7) of the high risks identified in the 2019 MLHU Risk Management Report no longer constitute a high risk to organizational objectives. These will need to be reevaluated in an ongoing way given the constantly-changing political landscape and the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Appendix B provides a summary of previous high risks and key mitigations.

Next Steps

The Governance Committee has the opportunity to review the 2020 MLHU Risk Management Report included with this report. Once the Governance Committee is satisfied with its review, the Risk Management Report will be forwarded to the Board of Health for approval.

This report was prepared by Healthy Organization Division.



Christopher Mackie, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health



Michael Clarke, PhD
CEO (Interim)