



TO: Chair and Members of the Governance Committee

FROM: Emily Williams, Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Alexander Summers, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2023 July 20

QUARTERLY RISK REGISTER UPDATE – Q1 2023

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Governance Committee recommend to the Board of Health to:

- 1) *Receive Report No. 07-23GC re: “MLHU Q1 2023 Risk Register” for information; and*
- 2) *Approve the Q1 2023 Risk Register ([Appendix A](#)).*

Key Points

- A Manager, Privacy, Risk and Client Relations was been successfully recruited, and started May 15, 2023.
- There were 24 risks identified in Q4 of 2022, 16 of which have been completed or mitigated to a point they are no longer of relevance for the Risk Register.
- Of the eight (8) risks identified on the Q1 2023 Risk Register: five (5) are high risk and three (3) are medium risk.
- Residual risk in Q1:
 - Six (5) classified as minor risk.
 - Two (2) classified as moderate risk.
 - One (1) classified as significant risk – Political risk re: uncertainty of Public Health Modernization.

Background

In January 2018, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (now called the Ministry of Health) implemented modernized Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) and introduced new accountability and reporting tools required under the Public Health Accountability Framework.

The OPHS require boards of health to have a formal risk management framework in place that identifies, assesses, and addresses risks. In response to OPHS, MLHU maintains a Risk Register ([Appendix A](#)) which is a repository for all risks identified across the organization and includes additional information about each risk (priority rating, mitigation strategies, and residual risk). It captures MLHU’s response and actions taken to address risks, which are monitored on a quarterly basis and reported to the Board.

Q1 2023 Risk Register

There are eight (8) risks identified on the Q1 Risk Register. A total of sixteen (16) risks have been removed from the Risk Register since Q4 2022.

Of the 16 risks that were removed from the Risk Register, they represent the following risk categories:

- Operational/Service Delivery
- Equity
- People/Human Resources
- Technology

- Stakeholder/Public Perception
- Financial
- Privacy

Of the 8 risks identified on the Q1 2023 Risk Register:

- Five (5) are high risk.
 - One (1) has been classified with significant residual risk due to uncertainty in public health funding mechanisms related to inflation and ongoing COVID-19 associated work. The City, County and the MLHU continue to advocate to the Ministry for adequate funding.
 - One (1) has been reduced to moderate residual risk through implementation of effective mitigation strategies. Uncertainty regarding Public Health Modernization exists; the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) continue to endorse the role of a strengthened public health sector at Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa) and Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) tables.
 - Three (3) have been reduced to minor residual risk through implementation of effective mitigation strategies.
- Three (3) are medium risk.
 - One (1) carries a moderate residual risk rating related to the Technology risk category. Further work is underway to understand vulnerabilities and implement effective mitigation strategies.
 - Two (2) have been reduced to minor residual risk through implementation of effective mitigation strategies.

Risk management education at the MLHU is ongoing, as work to embed enhanced risk management principles and practices across the continuum of activities continues.

Next Steps

It is recommended that the Governance Committee recommend to the Board of Health review and approve the Q1 2023 Risk Register ([Appendix A](#)) included with this report.

This report was prepared by the Manager, Privacy, Risk and Client Relations.



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