

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Dr. Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Michael Clarke, CEO (Interim)

DATE: 2020 July 16

SUMMARY INFORMATION REPORT - JULY 2020

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Health receive Report No. 033-20 re: “Summary Information Report - July 2020” for information.

Key Point

- Early in the COVID-19 response, MLHU services were prioritized and adjusted. Many of these adjustments remain in place, however, further changes have been made in response to increased demand for service and the impacts of the extended duration of the pandemic.
- Ontario Health Teams (OHT) are groups of health care providers and organizations that are clinically and fiscally accountable for delivering a full and coordinated continuum of care to a defined geographic population. In the past, the Health Unit has been involved in discussions related to the development of the Western Ontario Health Team, and has now been asked to become more involved in leadership of this OHT.

Update on Clinical Services During Pandemic

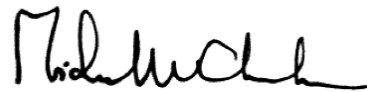
In April 2020, the Board of Health received a report outlining [Further Adjustments to Health Unit Services During Pandemic](#). Recently, changes have been made in response to increased demand for service and the impacts of the extended duration of the pandemic. As of July 3rd, the Friday morning Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) clinic has been reinstated. Appointment slots in the Monday and Wednesday STI clinics have increased from 50 to 84 clients, with the return to having three physicians in the clinic. For Family Planning Clinic (FPC), two new physicians have been hired and will start this month. As of July 14th, the FPC will be adding one more physician to Tuesday afternoon clinic (14 additional appointment slots) and one physician to the evening clinic (12 additional appointment slots), with additional schedule changes to be confirmed for the second physician joining the team. Although phone and virtual OTN appointments are still offered and utilized in the FPC, an increasing number of clients are indicating preference for in-person appointments. For vaccine-preventable disease services, additional immunization clinics will be added on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for Grade 7 “catch-up” clinics, until the end of August. In Healthy Start, nurses are continuing essential home visits (e.g., when virtual breastfeeding support is inadequate; when more in-depth mental health and well-being assessment and support is required; when in-person assessment and support related to intimate partner violence is required; when sustained telepractice intervention is negatively impacting client engagement and program attrition). As restrictions are easing and enhanced masking practices are being introduced, the provision of in-person support has increased based on client request and nursing assessment. Family Home Visitors have also returned primarily to program work and are providing phone and virtual OTN support to families.

Western Ontario Health Team

Ontario Health Teams (OHT's) are groups of health care providers and organizations that are clinically and fiscally accountable for delivering a full and coordinated continuum of care to a defined geographic population. Currently, the Western Ontario Health Team is functioning as an effective healthcare sector collaboration and integration table focused on London and Middlesex. This OHT has chosen a target population of patients with chronic health impacts of COVID-19. The Health Unit has been involved in the past in discussions related to the development of the Western Ontario Health Team, and more recently has been asked to become more involved in leadership of this OHT. Reorienting the healthcare system is a key component of health promotion work, as defined in the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion. Although local public health is not currently resourced to do this work, there is an opportunity for the Health Unit to be involved in this important work. Next steps include advancing the model of partnership, and identifying in-kind and financial budget contributions from partner organizations. A further report on this, including any financial implications, will come forward at a future Board of Health meeting.



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



Dr. Michael Clarke, PhD
CEO (Interim)