

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

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

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND INSPECTION ACTIVITIES – Q3 OF 2020 AND COVID-19 SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No. 052-20 re: “Public Health Inspector Enforcement Actions and Inspection Activities – Q3 of 2020 and COVID-19 Support Activities” be received for information.

Key Points

- Provincial and local COVID-19 response and planning continue to generate demand work for the Environmental Health and Infectious Diseases (EHID) division throughout Q3 and into Q4 of 2020.
- The teams in EHID continue to revisit service delivery to prioritize high risk work activities while modifying or putting on hold activities that are lower on the level of risk.

Background

The Environmental Health and Infectious Diseases (EHID) division began providing the Board of Health quarterly updates pertaining to inspection and enforcement activities early in 2019. Public Health Inspectors (PHI) at MLHU work on the Food Safety & Healthy Environments (FSHE) team, the Safe Water, Rabies and Vector Borne Disease (SWRVBD) team and the Infectious Disease Control (IDC) team within EHID.

The Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) defines the mandate for health units to conduct routine inspection work at pre-determined frequencies based on an annual risk categorization. These inspections pertain to food premises, recreational water facilities, personal service settings, as well as many other types of facilities that are either identified in the OPHS or that are conducted on request from partner agencies. Some of these types of inspections include migrant farm housing, group homes and city of London business licensing.

The EHID teams have been able to maintain high priority work while supporting the COVID-19 response. This has been achieved through careful consideration to programming that can either be continued, modified or put on hold. As such, COVID-19 has introduced a new level of risk to EHID health protection work which resulted in the reduction of some mandated programming, previously deemed high priority within the OPHS.

COVID-19 Support

Throughout 2020, EHID teams have provided support to IMS – COVID Operations through the deployments and redeployments of PHIs. Additionally, PHIs have provided COVID-19 health protection work through operator consultations, Re-opening Ontario Act (ROA) compliance checks, client visits on request from the Case and Contact Management Team, as well as COVID-19 complaints and service requests from facilities,

businesses and partner agencies within the city of London and Middlesex County. PHIs on the EH teams also provided community support through enhanced ROA monitoring in high risk settings such as pubs and congregate living environments.

As identified in the PHI Enforcement and Inspection Activities -Q1 BOH report, EH began to prioritize work to allow for flexibility in supporting IMS COVID-19 Operations while ensuring that high risk work continued to be addressed at the program level. During this time, the EHID teams maintained a significant amount of program work while supporting COVID Operations. Mandated inspections began to taper off as COVID-19 response work volume increased and many premises had been ordered closed under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA), later to become the Re-opening Ontario Act (ROA), 2020.

In Q3 of 2020, prior to the beginning of the second wave, the EH teams received most of the deployed staff back to EHID except for PHIs on the IDC team. This allowed for some of the EH work, previously on hold, to now resume. PHIs began completing food premises inspections while helping to support COVID-19 response work. Inspection work in Q3 is captured in the table below.

Reported Actions

Q3 2020

Type of Inspection	Total Inspections	Non-Critical Infractions	Critical Infractions	Enforcement Actions
Child Care	30	1	0	0
Food Institutional & Other	61	2	5	0
Food Safety	340	103	38	2
Infection Control	1	0	0	0
Personal Service Settings	45	0	4	0
Recreational Water	182	71	25	2
Drinking Water	2	0	0	0

Child Care – child care facility inspections (does not include any related food safety inspections).

Food Institutional & Other – non-DineSafe Institutional food premises (hospitals, long term care homes, child care food prep, etc.) and some very low risk, non-DineSafe food premises.

Food Safety – all food premises included in DineSafe program (restaurants, take-out, grocery stores etc.).

Infection Control – Funeral Homes.

Personal Service Setting – nail & hair salons, tattoo parlors, estheticians, etc.

Recreational Water – pools, spas and beaches.

Drinking Water – small drinking water distribution systems.

Conclusion

It is the intention of this report to bring awareness to the Board that EHID programs continue to operate in a risk-based approach, and as such, some program work has been modified or put on hold. With reduced staff and additional COVID-19 demands, the EHID teams continue to be flexible to address current and imminent risks in our communities.

This report was prepared by the Environmental Health and Infectious Diseases Division.



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