



## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### Health and Social Services Committee Agenda

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Regional Council Chambers

Regional Headquarters Building

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

Note: This meeting will be held in a hybrid meeting format with electronic and in-person participation. Committee meetings may be [viewed via live streaming](#).

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<b>1. Roll Call</b>	
<b>2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest</b>	
<b>3. Election of Health and Social Services Committee Vice-Chair</b>	
<b>4. Adoption of Minutes</b>	
4.1 Health and Social Services Committee meeting - December 5, 2024	3
<b>5. Statutory Public Meetings</b>	
There are no statutory public meetings	
<b>6. Presentations</b>	
6.1 Alex Swirski, Epidemiologist, and Tara Zupancic, Senior Environmental Health Specialist Re: Climate Change and Health in Durham Region - Assessing the Impacts of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation	7
<b>7. Delegations</b>	
7.1 Michael Braithwaite, Chief Executive Officer, Blue Door (In-Person Attendance) Re: Housing for All Land Trust	
7.2 Ben Earle, Chief Executive Officer, Feed the Need in Durham (In-Person Attendance) Re: Update on Food Insecurity and Response in Durham	
7.3 Patricia Conlin (In-Person Attendance)	

**8. Health**

8.1 Correspondence

8.2 Reports

There are no Health reports to be considered

**9. Social Services**

9.1 Correspondence

9.2 Reports

There are no Social Services reports to be considered

**10. Advisory Committee Resolutions**

There are no advisory committee resolutions to be considered

**11. Confidential Matters**

There are no confidential matters to be considered

**12. Other Business**

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 9:30 AM

**14. Adjournment**

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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 5, 2024

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, December 5, 2024 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Roy, Chair  
Councillor Dies, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Anderson  
Councillor Brenner\*  
Councillor Carter\*  
Councillor Foster\*  
Councillor Jubb\*  
Regional Chair Henry  
**\* denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also  
Present: Councillor Wotten\*  
**\* denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Staff  
Present: E. Baxter-Trahair\*, Chief Administrative Officer  
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services  
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
J. Gaskin, Director, Children’s Services, Social Services  
J. Hunt\*, Regional Solicitor/Director of Legal Services, Corporate Services – Legal Services  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health  
M. Laschuk, Director, Family Services, Social Services  
L. MacDermaid, Director, Long-Term Care and Services for Seniors, Social Services  
L. McIntosh, Director, Income & Employment Support, Social Services  
P. McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health  
G. Muller, Director, Affordable Housing Development & Renewal  
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
N. Taylor\*, Commissioner of Finance  
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
**\* denotes staff participating electronically**

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Dies, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,  
(42) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee  
meeting held on Thursday, November 7, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

**4. Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

**5. Presentations**

5.1 Dr. Pepi McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. Hetal Patel,  
Public Health and Preventive Medicine Resident, re: Respiratory Viral Illness  
Updates

Dr. Pepi McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. Hetal Patel,  
Public Health and Preventive Medicine Resident, provided a PowerPoint  
presentation with regards to Respiratory Viral Illness Updates.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Respiratory Virus Data Tracker
- Current Status – COVID-19
- COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance
- Current Status – Influenza
- Current Status – Respiratory Outbreaks
- Institutional Outbreak Dashboard
- COVID-19 Testing
- COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccines
- RSV Vaccine

Dr. McTavish responded to a question with regards to how the Health Department  
is communicating to the public on the importance of following guidelines to reduce  
the spread of respiratory viral illnesses.

**6. Delegations**

There were no delegations.

**7. Health**

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

A) Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS) – Continuation for the Standardization and Sole Source of Teleflex Medical Canada Inc., ARROW EZ-IO Intraosseous Vascular Access Equipment and Supplies (2024-MOH-5)

Report #2024-MOH-5 from R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Anderson, (43) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Teleflex Medical Canada Inc.'s ARROW EZ-IO intraosseous (IO) vascular access equipment be adopted as the standard for RDPS for a period of up to five (5) years; and
- B) That authorization be granted to award a sole source contract to Teleflex Medical Canada Inc., for up to five (5) years in the total estimated amount of \$425,000, for ARROW EZ-IO vascular access equipment and supplies, to enable paramedics to initiate IO access in critically ill and injured patients, when intravenous (IV) access is not a viable option.

CARRIED

**8. Social Services**

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

There were no Social Services reports to consider.

**9. Advisory Committee Resolutions**

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

**10. Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

**11. Other Business**

**11.1 Homelessness and Encampment Strategy**

In response to a question from Councillor Foster, L. McIntosh advised that the encampment strategy has moved past phases one and two of engagement and the document is almost ready for another round of review with area municipal staff. A final document that there is a level of consensus on will be presented at the February 6, 2025 Health and Social Services Committee meeting.

**11.2 Bethesda House**

Mayor Foster thanked staff for their work with Bethesda House on a resolution regarding their need for funding and for getting ahead of the problem.

**11.3 Ontario Auditor General's Report**

In response to a request from Chair Roy for feedback regarding the Ontario Auditor General's report on dealing with the opioid crisis, Dr. Kyle advised he reviewed the Audit at a Glance as well as the recommendations and believes it is a very damning review and there were not too many surprises in the report.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**13. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Dies, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,  
(44) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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E. Roy, Chair

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K. Smith, Committee Clerk



# CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH IN DURHAM REGION

## Assessing the Impacts of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation

**HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**February 6, 2025**

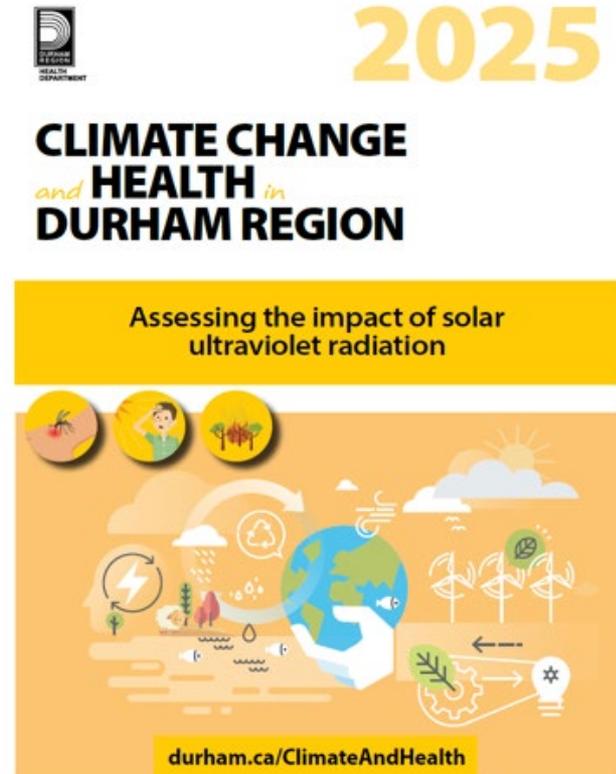
**Alex Swirski and Tara Zupancic  
Durham Region Health Department**





## Presentation overview

- Mandate and report series
- Solar UVR report
  - Framework
  - Key findings
  - Needs
  - Regional strengths
  - Next steps





# Why assess climate and health vulnerability?



**Ontario Public Health Standards mandate**



**Health impacts of climate change are on the rise**



**Many health impacts and health inequities are preventable**



# Report Series: 2024 -2025

## Primer



**Understanding the local health impacts of climate change**

## Vulnerability Assessments



**Assessing the impact of extreme heat**



**Assessing the impact of access and quality of food and water**



**Assessing the impact of ultraviolet radiation**



**Assessing the impact of poor air quality**



**Assessing the impact of vector borne disease**



**Assessing the impact of extreme weather**



# What are the report objectives?



Improve understanding of risk and health impacts



Report on available data



Prioritize equity



Establish baseline



# 2025

## CLIMATE CHANGE and HEALTH in DURHAM REGION

Assessing the impact of solar ultraviolet radiation



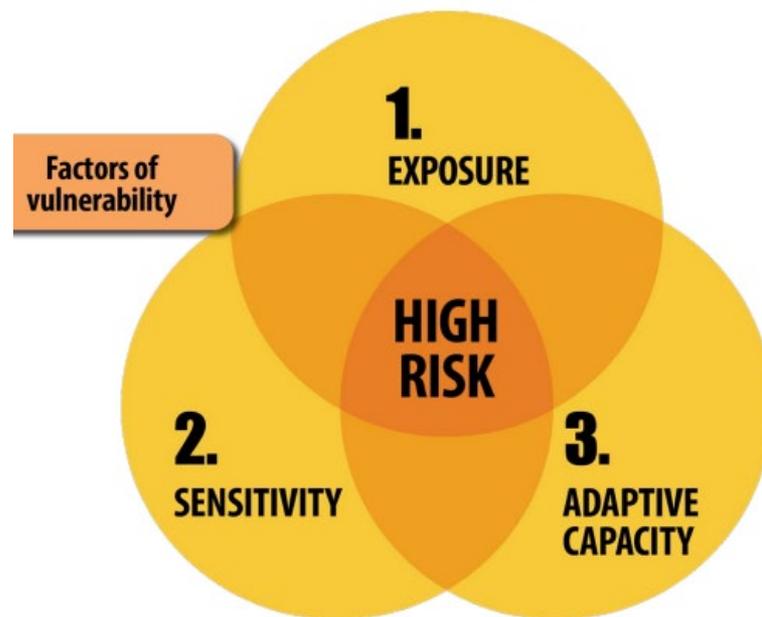


# What is solar UVR vulnerability?

## Priority Populations

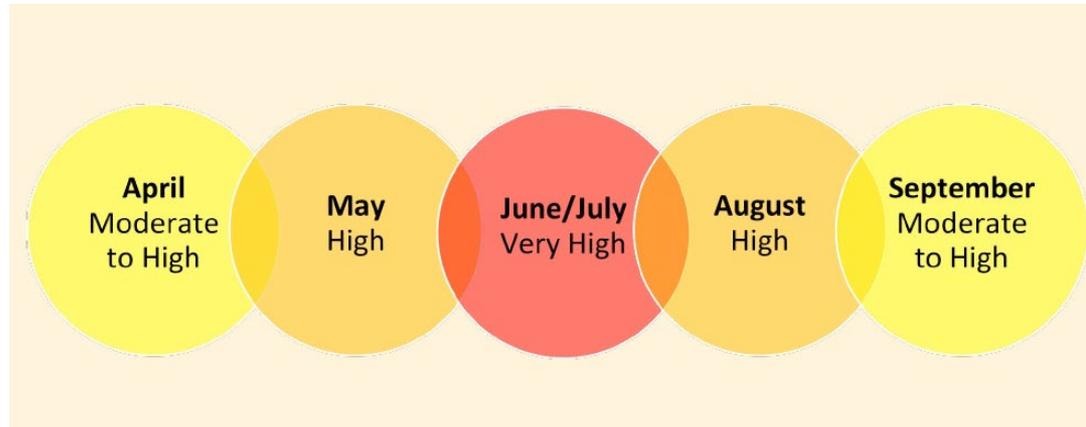
- **Infants** and young **children**
- Individuals who:
  - sunburn easily, or have a **history of sunburn**
  - have a family **history of skin cancer**
  - use certain **medications**
  - **work** or are physically active **outdoors**

## Factors of Solar UVR Vulnerability





## Overview of solar UVR exposure in Durham Region

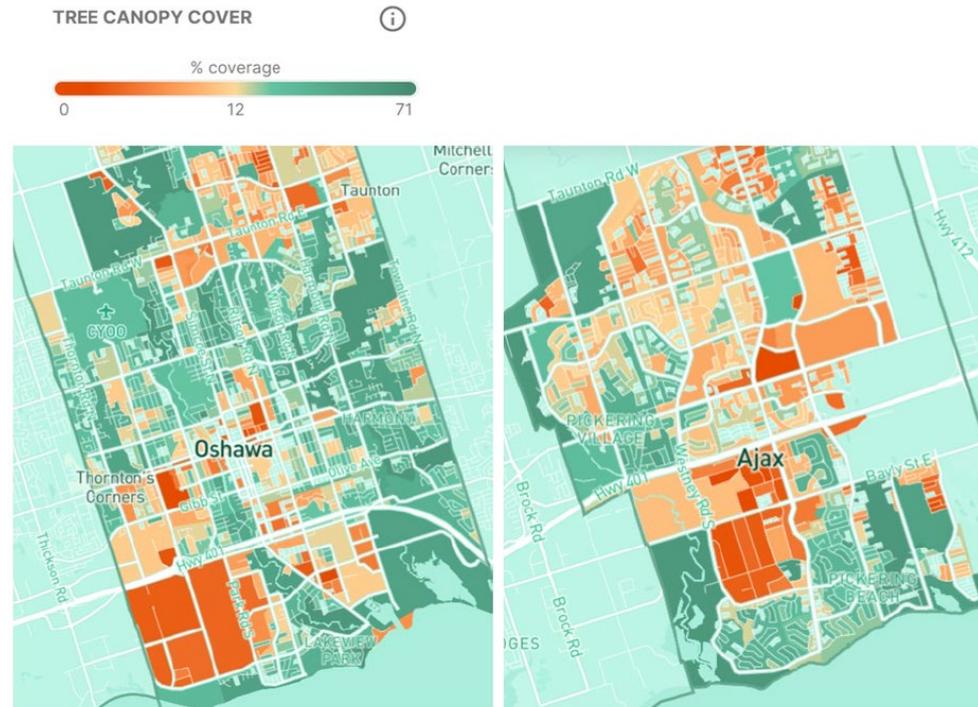


- Solar UVR levels are highest in Durham Region from April to September between the hours of 11 am and 3 pm
- Approximately 60% of the day's total carcinogenic radiation is received before 2 pm



## Where are risks of exposure higher?

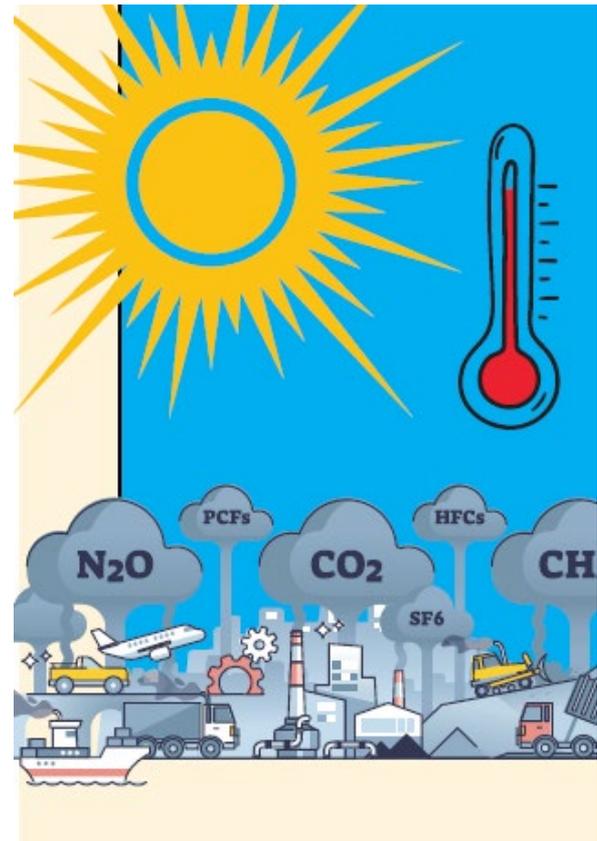
- Some residents experience greater risk of exposure than others due to unequal access to outdoor shade
- There is evidence that shade provides more reliable protection than sunscreen
- Disparities in local tree canopy cover indicate unequal access to shade and decreased capacity to avoid UVR





## Climate change and local solar UVR exposure

- Climate change is expected to increase solar UVR in Durham Region
- Increased concentrations of greenhouse gases are expected to reduce overall protective cloud cover
- Warmer temperatures are expected to increase outdoor time and UVR exposures





## What are the health impacts of solar UVR?



UVR exposure is the main cause of sunburns and childhood sunburns and may increase risk of melanoma skin cancer later in life



UVR exposure can cause premature aging of the eye which can lead to the development of cataracts



UVR exposure is the leading cause of skin cancer and the leading cause of environmentally acquired cancer in Ontario



Climate change is expected to increase the incidence of skin cancer in Durham Region in the coming decades



## Solar UVR Protections



**Provincial policies  
mainly limited to  
work settings**



**No specific policies  
to limit UVR  
exposure in child  
and youth settings**



**Both personal and  
built environment  
protections are  
needed**



## What actions can support sun-protection?



Improve understanding of UVR exposure patterns among youth



Prioritize shade in settings frequented by children and youth



Assess shade access and distribution in high-exposure areas



Establish local tree canopy cover baselines and targets with a focus on equitable access



## What are our strengths and resources?



Durham Region Health Department's health promotion on sun safety ([durham.ca/sunsafety](https://durham.ca/sunsafety))



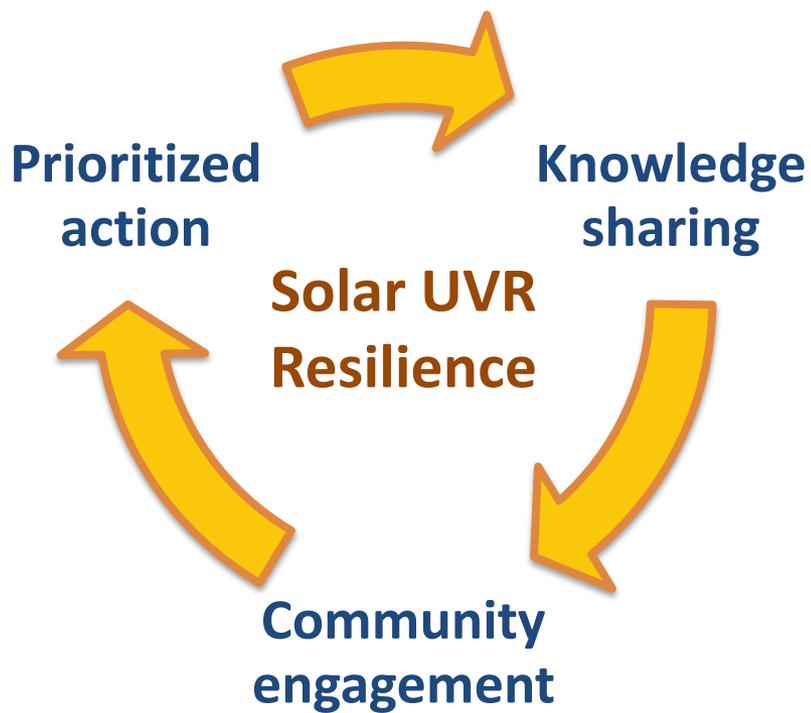
Tree planting incentive programs



Strong shade policies



## Next steps





## Key messages



Durham Region should be prepared for an increase in solar UVR exposure among residents, as climate change intensifies



Sun safety, starting in infancy, can prevent serious health impacts later in life



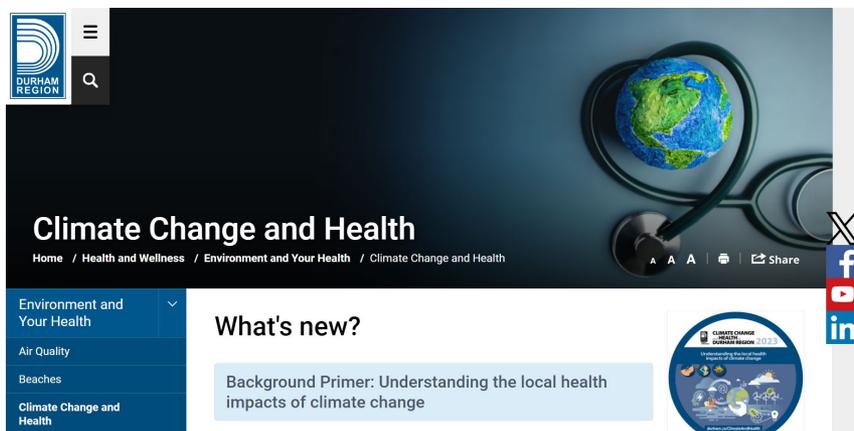
Equitable shade provision especially in child settings, active transportation routes and transit stops can improve adaptive capacity



Health impacts are severe but often preventable



# Thank you



[www.durham.ca/ClimateAndHealth](http://www.durham.ca/ClimateAndHealth)

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