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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
Report: #2024-INFO-41
Date: June 21, 2024

Subject:

Durham Region Health Department 2023 Health Check-Up!

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide an update on the Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) [2023 Health Check-Up!](#) (HCU), which has been posted on durham.ca.

2. Background

2.1 DRHD releases an annual HCU, as per its program planning, accountability and reporting cycle, to report on the priorities identified in the annual Health Plan, key program achievements and feature program specific stories. An overview of DRHD's program planning process, accountability requirements and reporting processes was provided in report [2024-INFO-31](#).

2.2 Financial information for 2023 is currently not included in the HCU and will be updated once it is available.

2.3 The HCU is a key component of DRHD's 'Accountability Framework' that also includes: the Health Plan; Program Reports; Health Information updates; Quality Enhancement Plans; business plans and budgets; provincial performance indicators and targets, monitoring, compliance audits and assessments; RDPS certification; and accreditation by Accreditation Canada.

3. 2023 HCU Highlights

3.1 The 2023 HCU includes successes and accomplishments achieved in the following DRHD program areas:

- a. Health Analytics & Business Affairs (Administrative Services, Community & Resource Development, Privacy & Information Security, Health Analytics & Research, and Health Policy & Equity)
- b. Health Protection (Durham Health Connection Line, Emergency Management, Food Safety, Healthy Environments, Ontario Building Code – Part 8, and Safe Water)
- c. Healthy Families (Durham Health Connection Line, Child & Youth, Prenatal & Newborn, Healthy Babies Healthy Children and Infant & Child Development)
- d. Healthy Living (Chronic Disease Prevention, Oral Health, Prevention of Injury & Substance Misuse, School Health, and *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*)
- e. Infectious Diseases (Immunization, and Infectious Diseases Prevention & Control)
- f. Paramedic Services
- g. Quality Assurance & Improvement and Health Information Systems

3.2 The 2023 HCU includes stories from various program areas highlighting key accomplishments, including:

- a. Implementation of privacy roadshows for staff
- b. Expansion of the health statistics dashboards
- c. Addressing an increase in special events and farmers' markets
- d. Implementation of cognitive behavioural therapy groups
- e. A priority plan to address youth vaping
- f. A new denture lab
- g. The launch of the Connection Campaign
- h. Responding to an increase in youth vaping
- i. Improving access to school-based vaccines
- j. A food-borne illness outbreak investigation
- k. Development of a new child care infection prevention and control module
- l. Enrollment of staff in the Durham College Advanced Care Paramedic Program

4. Relationship to Strategic Plan

4.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goal and priority in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- a. Goal 5: Service Excellence: 5.3 Demonstrate commitment to continuous quality improvement and communicating results.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The release of the HCU has been highlighted in this month's [video message from the Medical Officer of Health](#) available at durham.ca. The HCU highlights the work of DRHD staff and features key achievements across all programs.
- 5.2 In 2023, all programs and services were fully restored and response to COVID-19 was incorporated in regular programs and services.
- 5.3 The 2023 financial information, including expenditures and revenues, will be posted when available.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health