



# Interoffice Memorandum

**Date:** March 7, 2025

**To:** Health & Social Services Committee

**From:** Dr. Robert Kyle

**Subject:** Health Information Update – March 2, 2025

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Health  
Department

Please find attached the latest links to health information from the Health Department and other key sources that you may find of interest. Links may need to be copied and pasted directly in your web browser to open, including the link below.

You may also wish to browse the online Health Department Reference Manual available at [Board of Health Manual](#), which is continually updated.

Boards of health are required to “superintend, provide or ensure the provision of the health programs and services required by the [Health Protection and Promotion] Act and the regulations to the persons who reside in the health unit served by the board” (section 4, clause a, HPPA). In addition, medical officers of health are required to “[report] directly to the board of health on issues relating to public health concerns and to public health programs and services under this or any other Act” (sub-section 67.(1), HPPA).

Accordingly, the Health Information Update is a component of the Health Department’s ‘Accountability Framework’, which also may include program and other reports, Health Plans, Quality Enhancement Plans, Durham Health Check-Ups, business plans and budgets; provincial performance indicators and targets, monitoring, compliance audits and assessments; RDPS certification; and accreditation by Accreditation Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health

*“Service Excellence  
for our Communities*



**UPDATES FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**March 2, 2025**

**Health Department Media Releases/Publications**

**[tinyurl.com/5n6wjxxb](https://tinyurl.com/5n6wjxxb)**

- Dental Insurance in Durham Region (2021-2023) (Feb 27)

**[tinyurl.com/379k9upb](https://tinyurl.com/379k9upb)**

- Changes to the Ontario Cervical Screening Program (Feb 27)

**GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

**Canada Border Services Agency**

**[tinyurl.com/yc26raw4](https://tinyurl.com/yc26raw4)**

- CBSA launches Operation Blizzard to target fentanyl and other synthetic narcotics (Feb 27)

**Health Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/msjc7kf3](https://tinyurl.com/msjc7kf3)**

- Government of Canada signs pharmacare agreement with Manitoba to improve affordable access to medications (Feb 27)

**[tinyurl.com/yucn892h](https://tinyurl.com/yucn892h)**

- Government of Canada take further action to combat fentanyl production and organized crime (Feb 28)

**[tinyurl.com/33bpfnttr](https://tinyurl.com/33bpfnttr)**

- Supporting community-led responses to the illegal toxic drug and overdose crisis (Feb 28)

**Parks Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/y3p6bcwa](https://tinyurl.com/y3p6bcwa)**

- Government of Canada recognizes the Saskatchewan Doctors' Strike of 1962 as an event of national historical significance (Feb 19)

**Prime Minister's Office**

**[tinyurl.com/5n7vf6tf](https://tinyurl.com/5n7vf6tf)**

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with premiers to discuss the Canada-U.S. relationship and Canada's fight against fentanyl (Feb 26)

**Public Health Agency of Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/ytsh3shb](https://tinyurl.com/ytsh3shb)**

- Government of Canada purchases avian influenza vaccine to protect individuals most at risk (Feb 19)

## **GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO**

### **Elections Ontario**

[tinyurl.com/22t6ym9c](https://tinyurl.com/22t6ym9c)

- Unofficial results (Feb 28)

## **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Canadian Association for Pharmacy Distribution Management**

[tinyurl.com/34v4zchf](https://tinyurl.com/34v4zchf)

- National pharmaceutical associations join forces in identifying solutions for drug shortages (Feb 27)

### **Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety**

[tinyurl.com/4t6fw58x](https://tinyurl.com/4t6fw58x)

- Repetitive Strain Injuries: Take Action on February 28 (Feb 27)

### **Canadian Medical Association**

[tinyurl.com/4jmpxm7c](https://tinyurl.com/4jmpxm7c)

- Let doctors practice where they are needed: CMA (Feb 24)

### **Colorectal Cancer Canada**

[tinyurl.com/4ck72zby](https://tinyurl.com/4ck72zby)

- Make Your #2 Your #1 Priority: Get Screened for Colorectal Cancer (Feb 25)

### **Colorectal Cancer Research & Action Network**

[tinyurl.com/s227k4ss](https://tinyurl.com/s227k4ss)

- Colorectal Cancer: Screen It, Treat It, Beat It! Join CCRAN in Spreading Awareness this Month (Feb 27)

### **Heart and Stroke Foundation**

[tinyurl.com/4rs5x2mu](https://tinyurl.com/4rs5x2mu)

- Ultra-processed foods to blame for over a third of heart and stroke deaths in Canada (Feb 25)

### **Ontario Hospital Association**

[tinyurl.com/5722sr5x](https://tinyurl.com/5722sr5x)

- OHA Statement on Staffing Ratios at Ontario Hospitals (Feb 27)

### **Patented Medicine Prices Review Board Canada**

[tinyurl.com/2mxtbbxf](https://tinyurl.com/2mxtbbxf)

- PMPRB report shows higher-cost medicines driving a 14.1% growth in private plan drug costs in 2023 (Feb 25)

### **The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada**

[tinyurl.com/4ercrmru](https://tinyurl.com/4ercrmru)

- SOGC Statement Marking the First Federal-Provincial Agreement on Pharmacare in Canada (Feb 27)

**[tinyurl.com/52uywf46](https://tinyurl.com/52uywf46)**

- SOGC Urges Action on Endometriosis: Too Many Women Suffer in Silence (Mar 1)

**World Health Organization**

**[tinyurl.com/yw94yspw](https://tinyurl.com/yw94yspw)**

- First ever WHO treaty marks 20 years of saving millions of lives worldwide (Feb 25)

**[tinyurl.com/2n4yzkzj](https://tinyurl.com/2n4yzkzj)**

- WHO Director-General announces that mpox remains a public health emergency of international concern (Feb 27)

**[tinyurl.com/jk2rrmp8](https://tinyurl.com/jk2rrmp8)**

- New WHO and ITU standard aims to prevent hearing loss among gamers (Feb 28)

**[tinyurl.com/ymv2aast](https://tinyurl.com/ymv2aast)**

- Recommendations announced for influenza vaccine composition for the 2025-26 northern hemisphere influenza season (Feb 28)