



To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: February 8, 2024
From: Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services
Re: **Canadian Public Health Week, April 1 to 7, 2024**

This memo provides an overview of York Region's planned activities for recognizing Canadian Public Health Week 2024.

First Canadian Public Health Week was celebrated in 2022

The Regional Municipality of York celebrates Canadian Public Health Week annually to recognize contributions of public health and our staff. Canadian Public Health Week provides an opportunity to educate our partners and residents about the role and importance of public health in improving community health outcomes.

This year marks the third Canadian Public Health Week which will be celebrated April 1 to 7, 2024.

Theme for 2024 is We Are Public Health

In 2024, York Region Public Health will celebrate Canadian Public Health Week at a Regional level with virtual and in-person opportunities for connection.

This year's theme, We Are Public Health, encourages public health team members, our partners and residents to continue working together to protect and promote the health and well-being of people who live, work, play and attend school in York Region. Canadian Public Health Week will be used to continue building relationships with health care professionals throughout York Region. This theme aligns with previous campaign messaging used by York Region Public Health.

York Region Public Health protects and promotes the health and well-being of our community

York Region Public Health's [2022 Annual Report](#) provided a comprehensive overview of Public Health's 37 programs and services and significant accomplishments achieved throughout 2022. In 2023, a few significant service delivery achievements included:

- Completed 1,232 school clinics to provide 73,608 doses of Hepatitis B, HPV and Meningococcal vaccine to York Region Grade 7 to 12 students
- Managed a supply of 639,854 doses of publicly funded vaccines worth over \$32 million and 94,506 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to health care providers across York Region
- Screened 48,114 children and youth for dental needs through 353 community dental clinics, 277 elementary school clinics and 78 teledentistry appointments during the 2022/2023 school year
- Responded to requests for support from parents through 1,864 breastfeeding appointments
- Supported 15,036 clients with sexual health services through clinics and intake line. York Region Public Health distributed 2,974 doses of publicly funded treatments for sexually transmitted infections, both treating disease and preventing spread of infection to others
- Engaged in updating the [York Region Opioid Action Plan](#) to address opioid and drug toxicity related harms (e.g., poisonings and deaths) in York Region
- Conducted over 25,000 inspections at over 10,000 premises in a variety of settings including: restaurants, pools, arenas, tobacco and vape shops, personal service settings and others to ensure residents are protected against health hazards
- Conducted 241 infection prevention and control audits and outbreak preparedness activities with congregate living settings, long-term care and retirement homes, to protect our most vulnerable residents

In-person and virtual activities are planned for staff, partners and the community to celebrate Canadian Public Health Week

- **Morning breakfast rounds:** Health care professionals including primary care physicians, nurse practitioners and hospital partners throughout York Region will be invited to an outreach event to connect, engage and discuss relevant public health issues with our Medical Officer of Health, Chief Nursing Officer and Public Health Leadership Team. Morning rounds are common in hospital settings and enable skill development and relationship building
- **Public Health Matters:** Canadian Public Health Week will be featured in our monthly e-newsletter for health care professionals, to promote awareness and understanding of the work of Public Health and its many intersections with primary care and the health system

- **Social media campaign:** A multi-day campaign will be launched through York Region's social media channels, highlighting testimonials and lived experiences from York Region residents who have benefited from Public Health's programs or services
- **Clinic tours:** Before opening to residents, Council Members and York Region's media partners will be invited to a behind-the-scenes tour of Public Health's sexual health and dental clinics to showcase inclusiveness, quality and care offered to residents
- **Staff appreciation videos:** Daily video messages from senior Public Health and Regional leaders will acknowledge and celebrate the team's important contributions
- **Knowledge exchange series:** As a best practice, Public Health's four divisions and foundational support unit will share recent conference presentations, publications, panel discussions, staff rounds, professional profiles and other knowledge exchange activities to increase learning across the branch while recognizing the important contributions of all Public Health staff. These sessions will be held virtually as we hope to return to in-person knowledge exchange activities in 2025
- **Virtual coffee connections with Public Health Senior Leaders:** Staff have the opportunity to connect on a personal level with senior Public Health thought leaders to learn more about them, their journey and what drives them towards making York Region a provincial leader in Public Health

Canadian Public Health Week and the theme of We Are Public Health emphasizes the importance of public health in our communities, to protect, promote and improve the health and well-being of York Region residents.

For more information on this memo, please contact Dr. Barry Pakes, Medical Officer of Health at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74012. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



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