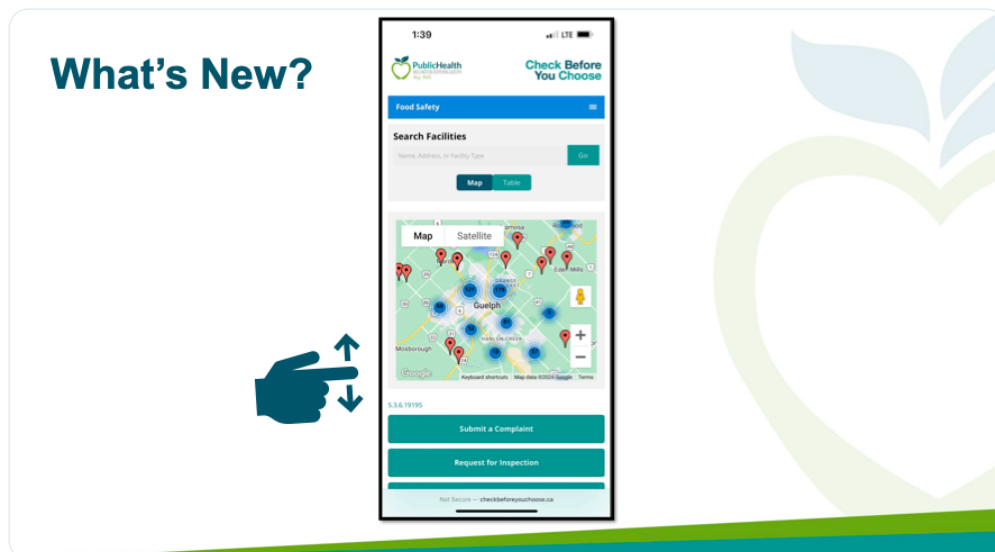




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Feb 7, 2024 · 39 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1755317221532811688](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1755317221532811688)

We're now joining the Board of Health meeting already in progress. The presentation about changes to the Check Before You Choose site is underway.



Public Health changed the website last year to improve its usability, especially on mobile where 60% of people are accessing the site. There's also improved usability accessing the site on desk or laptop.

There's also a broad function. If you're looking for where to go swimming for example, you can search by facility type with that's a swimming pool or wading pool or whatever. They recategorised everything to make it easier to search: barbershops, childcare, and eateries.

There are 2,600 inspection sites region wide, and information from tens of thousands of inspections. Phil Wong, Manager of Environmental Health, notes that most operators are very good to work with.

Got a complaint? You can do that right from your phone too!

Complaint Submission



Attach a photo of the issue directly through your mobile device



Direct contact to inspection and enforcement teams



Significantly improve response time and user experience.

What about outbreaks? You can access that through the CBYC page too, and it also gives you resources from the infection control team. You can also see lapses in infection control.

Look for the new sign. It comes with a QR code!



Motion to receive the report is approved.

Next, report about International Plowing Match and Rural Expo. It was in Dufferin County last fall, so WDGP had to make sure that the water was safe to drink and that the food was safe to eat as that fell under the responsibility of our own local public health authority.

Christopher Beveridge, Director of Health Protection, says it was a report about the disaster that never happened. Paul Medeiros, Manager of Environmental Health, says it was a team effort that led to a happy ending.

Member Gardhouse asks if there was any compensation for the 1000 hours of work. The answer is no, but Medeiros notes the outbreak in Orangeville last year, where there was a lot of work after the fact, this had 68k attendees over 5 days so disaster would have been more [s] [s] [s] [s].

Member Manktelow asks if there's no way that they can cover costs outside of budget. Dr. Mercer notes every fair and event require a lot of inspection time and none of those are

charged to organisers. Ounce of prevention and all that.

Beveridge adds that one time grants would be the only route to recoup costs, and its not exactly like the ONgov is handing those out. Gardhouse does note that the Plowing Match Assoc. did compensate for emergency services.

Motion to receive the report for information approved.

Next, Smart Cities Final Report. You may be aware that the Smart Cities office closed late last year with the completion of the project. Dr. Kyle Wilson, Director Information Systems & Chief Privacy Officer, will talk about where the work goes from here.

Wilson notes nearly 50 different projects were engaged and PH has in the nutritious food stream. Those partnerships are still being leveraged, and the U of G's Arrell Food Centre is hiring a Community Food Lead to continue community engagement and food access activities.

Motion to receive the report approved unanimously.

Next, Oral Health Report. Mercer says this report is meant to offer "a flavour" about the state of oral health the community. Part of this report is about recruiting further advocacy for action to the Minister of Health.

There are two main programs: Healthy Smiles and Seniors Program. Healthy Smiles focus on kids 17 and under and they have to have urgent needs and the family gets child tax credit. There's also the Fluoride Varnish program for kids in school, which has been very effective.

Mercer says that as they've come out of pandemic, and hygienists are going back in schools, there's 476 kids with urgent need and another 800+ with emerging needs. A lot of dental care needs to be done.

Seniors programs helps people 65 and up with a very specific eligibility threshold (meaning poor). Mercer says people become ineligible to continue treatment due to things like getting a one-time rebate or a benefit. Mercer says they would like to get secure exemptions.

There's also a challenge finding providers, dentists and specialists. Mercer blames this on the fee guide, hygiene codes are "well compensated" but the fee codes for procedures are well below rate of overhead costs.

So, they want to ask minister to decrease the compensation barriers and better subsidise these fees so people can get the help they need. These are not "luxury services", Mercer says, these are basic.

Rita Isley, Director of Community Health and Chief Nursing Officer, offers an example of fee code difference: Normal treatment for you with dental benefits is \$4k, under the seniors' program they get reimbursed \$800. It's essential pro bono.

Isley notes that even the grocery rebate is pushing the people out of the program, so there really needs to be an exception for these one-time benefits that don't change a senior's life that much.

Chair Bridge says part of the role of Public health is to help people when they see a need. Member Anderson asks how long ago these numbers were set. Isley says they haven't

changed since they haven't changed since the program was first introduced in 2016. Busuttil asks if the fluoride varnish is fully-funded by the ministry. Isley says no, that's the municipalities that are covering the costs. Busuttil also adds that she hears a lot of concerns about losing benefits b/c of rebates through her neighbourhood group.

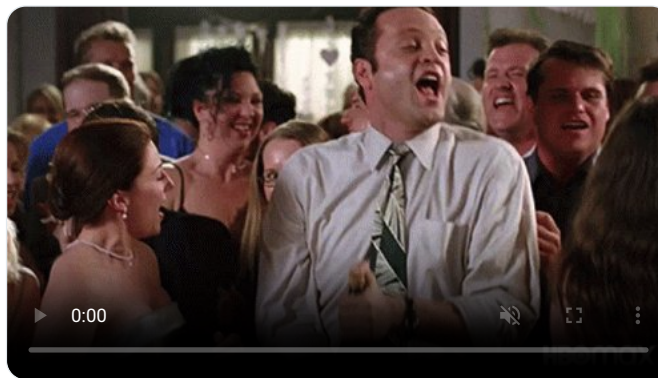
Recommendations approved:

It is recommended that the Board of Health receive this report for information.

That the Board of Health send a letter to the Minister of Health advocating for:

1. A review of fee code rates for dental providers to remove compensation barriers to dental care. Principles of fee code payments should include coverage of the provider's overhead costs and an acknowledgment that the provider will also receive some compensation for their time and expertise.
2. Exclude government rebates from assessment of income calculations for seniors to ensure that those who qualify for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Plan (OSDCP) program do not have their care interrupted.
3. Introduce fluoride varnish in all publicly funded schools as a preventive approach in the early years.

Next, Infectious Disease Spotlight. This month: meningitis.



Mercer says the point of this report is to highlight that there are vaccines available to prevent meningitis, you get one in Grade 7 actually, and that prevents four "really bad" forms of meningitis.

She adds that there's a meningitis the vaccine doesn't cover and they've been seeing in the last year, the B. There's a vaccine now for this strain, and in some provinces, if you're going to be a dorm or some congregate living you can get the vax for the B.

Mercer says that many parents don't realise there's a B vaccine when they send their kids of university, so you should consider that for Back to School prep. There are processes in place when meningitis is identified though. (It's a vax emergency!)

Mercer notes that meningitis B is rare, but not so rare that they can ignore the risk. Lilliana Marinko, Manager of Infectious Diseases, notes it's preventable, and the vaccine - though not covered - is a good investment to make.

Member Bull says there was nothing that concerned him more than when someone came into the clinic with meningitis. Encourage everyone to get vaccinated. It's very preventable.

Motion to receive the report for information approved.

Bridge says these were all good reports, and it's good information to share with the public.
Part of the board's function is education.

No committee reports.

There is a closed session, but there's only the approval of the minutes from the previous closed session to approve.

In other words...



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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