

**MIDDLESEX-LONDON BOARD OF HEALTH**

**REPORT NO. 70-24**

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Board of Health  
**FROM:** Dr. Joanne Kearon, Acting Medical Officer of Health  
**DATE:** 2024 October 17

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**ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH ACTIVITY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER**

**Recommendation**

*It is recommended that the Board of Health receive Report No. 70-24 re: “Acting Medical Officer of Health Activity Report for September” for information.*

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The following report highlights the activities of the Acting Medical Officer of Health for the period of September 6 – October 3, 2024.

The Acting Medical Officer of Health provides oversight of all public health programs at the Middlesex-London Health Unit and co-chairs the Senior Leadership Team. The Acting Medical Officer of Health participates in a wide range of external and internal meetings, along with liaising with community partners and municipal and provincial stakeholders.

The Acting Medical Officer of Health, along with other team members, continues to host a weekly Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) Staff Town Hall.

The Acting Medical Officer of Health also participated in the following meetings:

**Public Health Excellence**– *These meeting(s) reflect the Acting MOH’s work regarding public health threats and issues; population health measures; the use of health status data; evidence-informed decision making; and the delivery of mandated and locally needed public health services as measured by accountability indicators*

**September 9** Attended a meeting to discuss the rabies program.

**September 12** Chaired the Monthly Surveillance Committee meeting.

**September 19** With Mary Lou Albanese, Director, Environmental Health, Infectious Disease, and Clinical Services and leadership from the Infectious Disease Control Team, met to discuss tuberculosis programming.

Participated in a preparatory meeting for the respiratory preparedness exercise being hosted by MLHU.

- September 23** With Jennifer Proulx, Director, Family and Community Health, met to discuss key performance indicators for performance management.
- September 24** Chaired a meeting to discuss school health programming.
- September 25** Participated in the MLHU 2024 Respiratory Season Preparedness Exercise.  
Attended the monthly Data Governance Steering Committee meeting.
- September 26** Participated in a meeting with PHO to discuss MLHU's response to the Legionella outbreak.
- October 2** Chaired a meeting to discuss school health programming.

**Community Engagement, Partner Relations, and System Leadership** – *These meeting(s) reflect the Acting MOH's representation of the Health Unit in the community and engagement with local, provincial and national stakeholders both in health and community arenas, along with engagements with local media.*

- September 10** Participated in the monthly Public Health Sector Coordination Table meeting, facilitated by the Ministry of Health.  
  
With Emily Williams, CEO and Jennifer Proulx, Director, Family and Community Health, met to discuss policy and government relations strategy for intimate partner violence.
- September 11** Attended the quarterly meeting with the London Middlesex Primary Care Alliance.  
  
Attended a meeting of the Tuberculosis Medical Surveillance Working Group, facilitated by the Ministry of Health.  
  
Interview with Loreen Dickson, myFM Strathroy, regarding respiratory illnesses in schools.
- September 12** Attended a meeting with local First Nations Health Centres to discuss medical directives and data sharing.
- September 13** Attended the Children's Hospital fall preparedness tabletop exercise.  
  
With Emily Williams, CEO and Stephanie Egelton, Executive Assistant to the Board of Health, met to discuss action items from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario annual general meeting and conference.  
  
Participated in the Public Health Sector Coordination Table Syphilis Sub-Group meeting, facilitated by the Ministry of Health.
- September 16** Participated in the Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) Drug/Opioid Toxicity Crisis Working Group meeting.

Participated in the monthly Southwest Medical Officer of Health/Associate Medical Officer of Health meeting.

- September 17** Presented a Healthcare Provider Outreach webinar.
- Interview with Andrew Brown, CBC London, regarding COVID-19 activity.
- September 18** With Emily Williams, CEO and Cynthia Bos, Associate Director, Human Resources and Labour Relations, attended the quarterly touch base meeting with union partner Ontario Nurses Association (ONA).
- September 19** With Emily Williams, CEO and Cynthia Bos, Associate Director, Human Resources and Labour Relations, attended the quarterly touch base meeting with union partner Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).
- September 24** Interview with Angela McInnes, CBC London, regarding the Respiratory Summary in Middlesex-London for the week of September 24.
- September 25** Participated in the bi-weekly meeting of the London-Middlesex Triad.
- October 2** Attended a meeting of the Community Advisory Committee and Project Team for the London Health Sciences Centre Harm Reduction Strategy.
- Attended a meeting of the Tuberculosis Medical Surveillance Working Group, facilitated by the Ministry of Health.
- October 3** Attended the monthly meeting of the Strategy and Accountability Table for the Whole of Community System Response, facilitated by the City of London.
- Participated in the Clinical Investigators Program Residency Committee Meeting, facilitated by Western University.

**Employee Engagement and Teaching –** *These meeting(s) reflect on how the Acting MOH creates a positive work environment, engages with employees, and supports employee education, leadership development, mentorship, graduate student teaching, medical students or resident teaching activities.*

- September 9** Met with the medical student completing a rotation with MLHU.
- September 13** Met with the medical student completing a rotation with MLHU.
- September 19** Met with the Infectious Disease Fellow completing a rotation with MLHU.
- September 23** Attended the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation webinar, “Health-Related Impacts of the Residential School System.”
- September 24** Attended the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation webinar, “Allyship and Confronting Unconscious Bias.”

**October 2** Attended the PHO Rounds webinar: “A.I. Technologies in Public Health Part 1: Launching the Automated Opioid News Event-based Surveillance (AONES) Tool”

Met with the medical student completing a rotation with MLHU.

**Organizational Excellence** – *These meeting(s) reflect on how the Acting MOH is ensuring the optimal performance of the organization, including prudent management of human and financial resources, effective business processes, responsive risk management and good governance.*

**September 10** Attended a meeting to discuss architecture and organization of internal policies.

**September 11** Attended the monthly Board of Health Agenda Review and Executive meeting.

With Emily Williams, CEO, attended a meeting to discuss 2025 budget planning.

**September 12** With Emily Williams, CEO and Cynthia Bos, Associate Director, Human Resources and Labour Relations, met to discuss after hours coverage and service levels, including during the winter office closure.

Attended a meeting with the Senior Leadership Team to discuss finance-related matters.

**September 16** Attended the monthly touch base meeting with the Board of Health Chair.

With Emily Williams, CEO, met to discuss budget planning.

**September 19** Attended the September Finance and Facilities Committee and Board of Health meetings.

This report was prepared by the Acting Medical Officer of Health.



**Joanne Kearon, MD, MSc, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC**  
Acting Medical Officer of Health

**This report refers to the following principle(s) set out in Policy G-490, Appendix A:**

- The Good Governance and Management Practices Domain as outlined in the [Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability](#).

**This topic has been reviewed to be in alignment with goals under the Middlesex-London Health Unit's [Anti-Black Racism Plan](#) and [Taking Action for Reconciliation](#), specifically the Governance and Leadership (ABRP) section.**