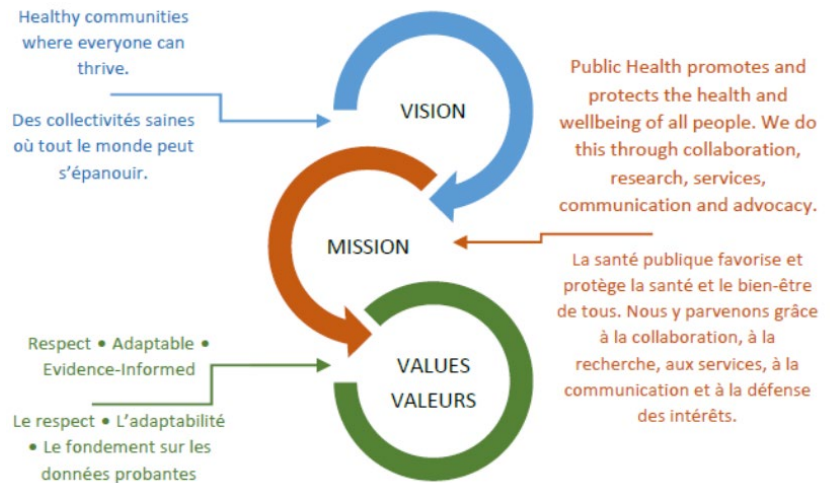


Report Content

- [THU in Action: Our People - Our Stories](#)
- [HR Update](#)



Timiskaming Health Unit in Action

Our people – our stories.

Foundational Standards

Population Health Assessment and Surveillance

Population health assessment and surveillance is an essential public health function to support local public health practice to respond effectively to current and evolving issues and contribute to the health and well-being of our population. The list below highlights some of this work:

Work Completed:

- Supported pertussis outbreak with data analysis, case definitions, and data entry guidance.
- Professional development: Specialist Knowledge Translation Training.
- Supported RPPAs with data requests regarding program planning and other projects.
- Supported opioid surveillance dashboard, data tracking process, EWSS thresholds and opioid summary report.
- Estimates of immunization coverage in district schools completed.
- Re-vamped the THU COVID-19 webpage.

Variance:

- Much effort and attention were directed to unanticipated smoke and wildfire assessment and surveillance data.
- Sociodemographic report was not completed due to staff maternity leave and coverage.

Health Equity

The following section highlights local public health work in 2023 toward reducing health inequities that includes assessing and reporting on the local impact of health inequities and identifying local strategies, modifying and orienting public health interventions, and health equity analysis, policy development, and advancing healthy public policies.

Work Completed:

- Worked on reinstating the THU Health Equity Committee.
- Safe spaces strategy and community engagement strategy created.
- Living Wage communications strategy implemented.
- Presentation to THU teams on creating safe, inclusive spaces for the 2S-LGBTQ+ community.

Effective Public Health Practice

Effective public health practice requires THU staff to apply skills in evidence-informed decision-making, research, knowledge exchange, program planning and evaluation, and communication, with a continued focus on quality and transparency. The section below captures 2023 activity highlights for program planning, evaluation, and evidence-informed decision making as well as for knowledge exchange and continuous improvement.

Work Completed:

- In Q3 several program plans were updated to inform the 2024 budget process, including: Mental Health Promotion, Physical Activity, Food and Nutrition, UV exposure, School Health, Food Safety, Safe Water, IPAC, Rabies, Health Hazards, Healthy Environments, Oral Health and Vision, Sexual Health, Alcohol, and Cannabis, Tobacco and Vaping.
- Professional Practice Committee launched OceanMD, an extension of our OSCAR EMR. OceanMD enables THU to send emailed appointment reminders, secure eMessages, and to join the Ontario eReferral network.
- Launched pilot group of twelve staff taking OnCore training, a collaborative, peer-led public health foundations course.
- Finalized THU ethics policy and related supporting documents.
- THU manager Amanda Mongeon highlighted THU's work to mitigate equity-related impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in a [poster](#) titled *Exploring Opportunities to Enhance Health in all Policies (HiAP) in Rural Communities in the Context of Disruption* at the Towards Sustainable Societies: Health in All Policies and Social Determinants of Health Seminar, held in Tampere, Finland, on September 5 and 6, 2023.

Variance:

- Updating planning tools delayed due to staff capacity and merger work.

Emergency Management

Effective emergency management ensures that boards of health are ready to cope with and recover from threats to public health or disruptions to public health programs and services.

Work Completed:

- Administered the After-Action Review of the COVID-19 pandemic and began analyzing the results.
- Supported the launch of PurpleAir monitors across the district, partnering with ECCC and municipalities.

Examples of Knowledge Products created with the Foundational Standards Team Q3:

Team	Product name
CD/IP	Completed and submitted City of Temiskaming Shores marina consultation briefing note
HGD	In-person Prenatal Classes Evaluation Report Breastfeeding Peer Support Group: Implementation Summary

Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being

Active Living:

Work Completed:

- Completed scan of pedestrian skills training programs.
- Supported delivery of Bus Buddies Events in Kirkland Lake, Temiskaming Shores.

Variance:

- Promotion of paint stencils to community and via schools delayed to spring 2024.

Healthy Eating:

Work Completed:

- Contributed to Q3 Health for All Municipal newsletter.

Variance: Most variance here due to limited RD capacity (only 1/2 positions in place)

- Work to support Healthy Eating in Recreation Settings due to limited RD capacity.
- Monitoring and updating of Timiskaming Local Food Map on hold due to limited RD capacity.
- Social media (Timiskaming Talks Nutrition and youth instagram) on hold due to limited RD capacity.

Mental Health Promotion:

Work Completed:

- Adverse Childhood Experiences overview provided to THU nurses at internal training event.

Variance:

- Trauma and violence informed care training for THU staff supporting harm reduction and sexual health programs delayed to Q4.
- Development of a primer to support implementation of mental health promoting language in all THU program areas not yet addressed due to other activities being given higher priority.
- Community asset mapping project delayed, now collaborating with Centre de sante du Temiskaming to complete in shareable format.
- Mental health literacy campaign (Caring Adults Matter) delayed to Q4.

Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP):

Work Completed:

- Between July and September 2023, the OSDCP had 29 new clients and 36 clients waiting for follow-up on the waitlist.
- We received \$54,000 from our application for one-time funding for the seniors' dental program. We received about half of the amount we applied for. The funds were to be used towards salaries. We were successful in hiring a temporary part-time dental hygienist and an internal dental assistant has been moved to a temporary dental hygienist position. These positions will be maintained until March 31, 2024. This extra support should see our waitlist and follow-up list decrease.

Variance:

- As we moved our dental assistant to a temporary dental hygienist position, we currently do not have any dental assistants. We continue to post for the dental assistant maternity leave position.

OSDCP 2023	2022 Total	Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Q3 Total	Q4 Total	2023 (Jan-Sep 2023)
Applied at THU	232	77	52	82	0	216
Applied Online	19	11	0	6	0	17
Unique Seniors Served at THU	182	64	68	46	0	178
Total OSDCP Preventive Appointments at THU	197	74	68	50	0	192
Unique Seniors Served by Providers	554	158	183	189	0	535
Total OSDCP Appointments by Providers	686	238	38	237	0	678

Substance Use and Injury Prevention

Alcohol and Drug Use, Enhanced Harm Reduction Program and Ontario Naloxone Program:

Work Completed:

- Initiated Planet Youth Timiskaming, local district-wide implementation of Icelandic Prevention Model as part of Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy. Includes development of local Steering Committee.
- Completed inventory of local substance use prevention initiatives.
- Continued to implement Enhanced Harm Reduction Program.
- Launched Timiskaming's Overdose Early Warning Surveillance System including bad drug form (media release and earned media from French CBC, CTV, local radio and newspaper).
- Held second Knowledge Network meeting. Topic: AIDS Committee of North Bay and Area.
- Facilitated 2023 Overdose Awareness Day awareness campaign and attended local events in Temiskaming Shores, Englehart, Kirkland Lake.
- Grand Rounds presentation on Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy (TDAS).
- Ongoing coordination of Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy, co-chair of Steering Committee, chair of three pillar groups.

Needle Exchange and Harm Reduction Program

Internal Program					
Client Services	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total # Encounters NEP and Other HR Supplies	498	355	159	249	407
Total # of needles provided	-	24,380	31,638	37,260	25,037
Total # of bowl pipes provided	-	4,620	12,962	15,366	10,519
Total # of Naloxone kits provided	-	236	234	256	176
Total # of Naloxone refills provided	--	43	45	39	23

Comprehensive Tobacco Control:

Work Completed:

- Provided cessation support (data temporarily unavailable).
- Promoted Smoke-free housing through local advertising.

Variance:

- Data temporarily unavailable.

Tobacco Enforcement							
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Inspections	355	336	357	220	163	267	268
Charges	6	9	7	1	8	5	4
Warnings	103	82	166	73	136	144	89

Work Completed:

- Our youth test shopping program was operating in full capacity again, which had been paused during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Variance:

- Test shopping inspections of new specialty vape stores in our district need to take place, as these businesses are newly opened. Plan to complete that work in Q4.

Injury Prevention, including On- and Off-Road Safety:

Work Completed:

- Facilitated launch of Timiskaming Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.
- Campaign delivered re concussions including education and resources for health care providers, parents and students.

Healthy Aging:

Work Completed:

- Continuing to collaborate with four other Northeastern Ontario HUs in delivery of Stay on Your Feet (SOYF) initiative for older adult falls prevention, partially funded by Ontario Health Northeast.
- Distributed fall edition of Municipal Newsletter “Health for All”.

Variance:

- Engagement with City of Temiskaming Shores 8-80s Community Committee—committee has not met as expected.
- Delay in work to identify local businesses interested in moving forward with Age Friendly Business status as part of Provincial Age Friendly Business Working Group. Now planned for Temiskaming Shores in 2024.
- Work to collaborate with partners to advocate for affordable access to transportation for older adults delayed.
- Work with local seniors club to become members of Older Adult Centres’ Association of Ontario and join Links2Wellbeing and partner with primary care delayed (Encore Club, KL shifting focus to renovations, time did not permit collaborating with another local club this year).
- Exploring opportunities to host wellness clinics at seniors’ apartments adjusted: Community paramedicine is hosting these clinics but does not have space to include falls prevention resources at this time.

Violence:

Work Completed:

- Continue Membership on the Temiskaming District Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee.
- Joined as member of Timiskaming Elder Abuse Task Force.
- Initial violence screening question training session completed with Community Paramedicine who will pilot the project over the next few months.

Healthy Growth and Development

From July to September 2023, we have had 42 births within our district. Healthy Growth and Development initiatives continue to prioritize and promote preconception, pregnancy, newborn, child, youth, parental and family health.

Breastfeeding and Infant Feeding:

Work Completed:

- THU continues to support clients with the breast pump program. Between July and September, a total of four breast pump rentals were processed. We also continue to offer manual breast pumps to families as needed for a minimal fee.
- We continue to maintain and support the Timiskaming Breastfeeding Buddies Facebook group. We are currently in the process of evaluating the possibility of restarting the Breastfeeding Peer Support Program.
- Lactation consulting support continues throughout the district; 16 families received at least one consultation between July and September 2023.

Variance:

- The Breastfeeding Peer Program remains on pause since 2022. Work is underway to restart the program in January 2024.

Prenatal Education:**Work Completed:**

- We continue to offer the online bilingual courses for THU residents via Public Health Sudbury and Districts.
- THU continues to partner with Timiskaming Brighter Futures to offer virtual sessions. Between July and September 2023, a total of 19 mothers and four support persons have attended either the Brighter Futures classes or one-on-one prenatal/breastfeeding classes.

Well-baby Visits (WBV):

THU continues to offer WBV throughout the district. These visits reach children aged 0 to 6 years and offer services such as immunizations, weights, and developmental screening.

Work Completed:

- WBV remained busy in the New Liskeard office. Clinics continued to be offered weekly in the Kirkland Lake and Englehart office. Between July to September 2023, there were 93 WBV in the New Liskeard office, 67 in the Kirkland Lake office and 20 in the Englehart office.

Variance:

- We continue to see a decrease in WBV attendance in the north end of the district. A meeting is being planned between the Kirkland Lake District Family Health Team and THU to see how we can best support each other related to programs and services.

Mental Health:**Work Completed:**

- We continue to screen families using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale prenatally, 48 hours after hospital discharge, at 2-months, and at 6-months post-partum. From January to June 2023, six referrals for support services were made.

Parenting:**Work Completed:**

- THU continues to work on launching a Parenting in Timiskaming campaign. This campaign will include a website and social media that will support the following topics: breastfeeding, car seats, immunization, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, positive parenting, postnatal and newborn health, preparing for pregnancy, sexual health, sleep, smoking, starting solids, substance use and services at THU.

Road Safety and Car Seat Safety:**Work Completed:**

- From July to September 2023, THU completed five car seat inspections.
- The certified technicians at THU continue to see clients one-on-one with booked car seat inspection appointments.

Healthy Eating:

Work Completed:

- Supporting Ontario Dietitians in Public Health Childcare Practical Guide that is being updated for 2024.
- Provided feedback on nutrition sections for the website update.
- Developed nutrition post for Peer Support Facebook Plan for December.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program:

The goal of the HBHC program is to optimize newborn and child healthy growth and development and reduce health inequities for families. The program includes the following components: (1) Screening – prenatal, postpartum and early childhood (2) In-depth assessment (IDA) contact and assessment for families with risk (3) Postpartum Contact (4) Blended Home-Visiting and Family Service Plan.

The table below outlines the percentage of births that received a prenatal and postpartum screen as well as the percentage of eligible children (6 weeks to 70 months) who received an early childhood screen. We continue to see an increase in families accessing the HBHC program in the south end of THU's catchment area since resuming regular programming.

Percent of births receiving a prenatal and postnatal HBHC screen and % of eligible children with an early childhood HBHC screen in Timiskaming Health Unit area.						Provincial Target
Screen	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Jan to Sep)	
Prenatal	82%	65%	82%	75.4% (46.5%)*	61.7% (48%)*	10%
Postpartum	96%	70%	84%	82.8% (69.8%)*	82.1% (77.5%)*	80%
Early Childhood	3%	2%	0.7%	3.6% (68.4%)*	3.6% (51.2%)*	5%

*Clients who are considered high-risk as defined by the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Screen

Blended Home-Visiting (BHV) Program:

Healthy Babies Healthy Children In-Depth Assessments (IDA), Home Visits and Family Service Plans						
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Jan to Sep)
Number of individuals confirmed with moderate or high risk (eligible for home visit) through an IDA	Prenatal	16 (66.6%)	6 (54.5%)	11 (91.7%)	7 (87.5%)	9 (82%)
	Postpartum	33 (53.2%)	16 (51.6%)	34 (73.9%)	30 (73.2%)	37 (88.4%)
	Early Childhood	18 (72%)	9 (90%)	11 (78.6%)	21 (77.8%)	7 (41.6%)
Number of families served with ≥ 2 home visits		41	26	29	46	93
Number of families who received an IDA.		111	52	72	76	67
Number of families with a family service plan initiated			10	9	30	27
Total # of Home Visits (with a FHV, PHN or both)		206	140	88	498	530

HBHC Screening and Hospital Liaison:

Work Completed:

- We continue to offer daily weekday hospital liaison visits to Temiskaming Hospital. These visits also allow the PHNs to complete a formal post-partum Healthy Babies Healthy Children screen as mandated by the ministry. The visits also enable PHNs to assist families with breastfeeding and to discuss and promote services at THU and within the community.

School and Child Care Health

Oral Health and Vision Screening:

The Oral and Vision Health team has returned to full services in-school. All mandated programming is being completed.

Variance: We continue to post the maternity leave dental assistant job posting. We have been unsuccessful at recruiting for this position.

Oral Health - Dental Screenings								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Jan to Sep)
Pre-Kind/Kind & Grade 2 In-School Mandatory Program	937	800	624	925	279	0*	518	400
Pre-Kind/Kind, Grade 2, 4 & 7 In-School Mandatory Program	---	---	985	1840	632	0*	751	893
Additional Grades In-School Screening	2217	1350	654	915	0*	0*	53	13
Office Screenings	238	248	231	193	105	150	88	357

**This program was impacted by staff redeployment to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of COVID-19 measures on school partners. **Data for this section was not captured in the same fashion it was starting in 2018, therefore it is not specific to the grades required.*

Vision Screening Program:

School Vision Screening Program						
Senior Kindergarten Students	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Jan to Sep)
Number Screened	146	143	0*	0*	0*	383
Number Referred to Optometrist for Vision Exam	62	63	0*	0*	0*	134

**Similar to oral health, this program was impacted by resources being redeployed to the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that schools were shut down at times and/or not allowing outside people in when they were open.*

School Health Immunization and Licensed Child Care:

Work Completed:

- Throughout Q3, the school team continued updating their school immunization process to be ready for the 2023-2024 school year. This included an online process to support the ISPA (Immunization School Pupils Act).
- Support and collaboration continued with our licensed child care providers.

Comprehensive School and Child Care Health:

Work Completed:

- Work continued related to e-blasts for the upcoming school year. The purpose of the e-blasts is to share school-related content with all schools across our district. These topics also align with THU's mandate, such as: physical activity, immunization, mental health, or healthy eating.

Infectious Diseases and Infection Prevention and Control:

Work Completed:

- We continued to support our local schools with IPAC resources as needed.
- We continue to make sure that THU website information for schools and child care remain up to date.
- We promote [guide to common infections](#) for schools and child care providers.

Healthy Eating and Active Living:

Work Completed:

- Collaborated with EarlyOn and delivered a community Bike Rodeo in Earlton.
- Scavenger Hunt Activity and THU booth at Day in the Park in Englehart.
- Provided new skipping ropes/jump rope activity booklet to École Ste-Croix for their outdoor classroom.
- Active School Travel/Advocacy for safety in school zones – after traffic observations and in consultation with the school and the community, a memo was sent to Armstrong Town Council with recommendations for a new crosswalk in front of École Catholique Assomption.
- Another memo was also developed in conjunction with the Timiskaming District Road Safety Coalition on behalf of St. Jerome Catholic School. It was advocating for changes to the main intersection accessing the school, including an enhanced crossing with a 4-way stop and better sidewalk connectivity. The proposed changes were brought to council at a public meeting and the changes were adopted by the Town.
- Promoted the Canadian Cancer Society's "On Your Feet Challenge" via social media.
- Walk 'N Roll social media focus this quarter has been on safe walking and school bus safety, as well as encouraging families to take the active route whenever possible.
- Preparations and communications began with schools in September to get ready for IWalk – two new schools joined this year – École des Navigateurs and Federal Public School. Nine schools were provided with resources and activity suggestions for Walk to School Day and the whole first week of October.

October is Walk to School Month.

- We provided a box of helmets to the town of Englehart to have available for those who need one.
- Updated the Northern Fruits and Vegetable Program (NFVP) Toolkit activities and implementation guide.
- Provided SNP lead support funding opportunities and open house nutrition resources.
- Developed 2-3 nutrition posts per month for the Youth Instagram account.

Sexual Health and Healthy Sexuality:

Work Completed:

- Planning also happened related to getting the healthy relationship clinics initiated in high schools. The purpose of the healthy relationship clinics is to support student and school staff well-being by having a school nurse run weekly or bi-weekly in-school clinics to offer sexual health, healthy relationship, immunization, mental health and substance use services, referrals and resources as needed.

Substance Use:

Work Completed:

- Information was shared with school boards and local schools on vaping.
- Information was shared on the tobacco enforcement guidelines and requirement during our first DOE meeting for this upcoming school year.
- Shared information on [not an experiment campaign and resources](#).

Mental Health:

Work Completed:

- School nurses supported the RAO Youth Wellness Initiative.
- Through the summer, THU worked with Porcupine Health Unit to align the program to help school boards have the same expectations across the district.
- In Sept, we had our first meeting with DSB1 school MH staff and the school board MH lead, this included an overview of: the mini-grant, training, timelines and supports.
- We attended principal meetings, topics included mental health concerns and absenteeism.
- Our Youth Instagram page shared information on the following topics: mental health, coping, exam preparation, stress of starting a new school year and other topics that support youth wellness.
- The school nurses also supported health promoters with work related to Planet Youth to prepare our local high schools with the Icelandic Prevention Model (IMP) survey for our grade 10 and 11 students.

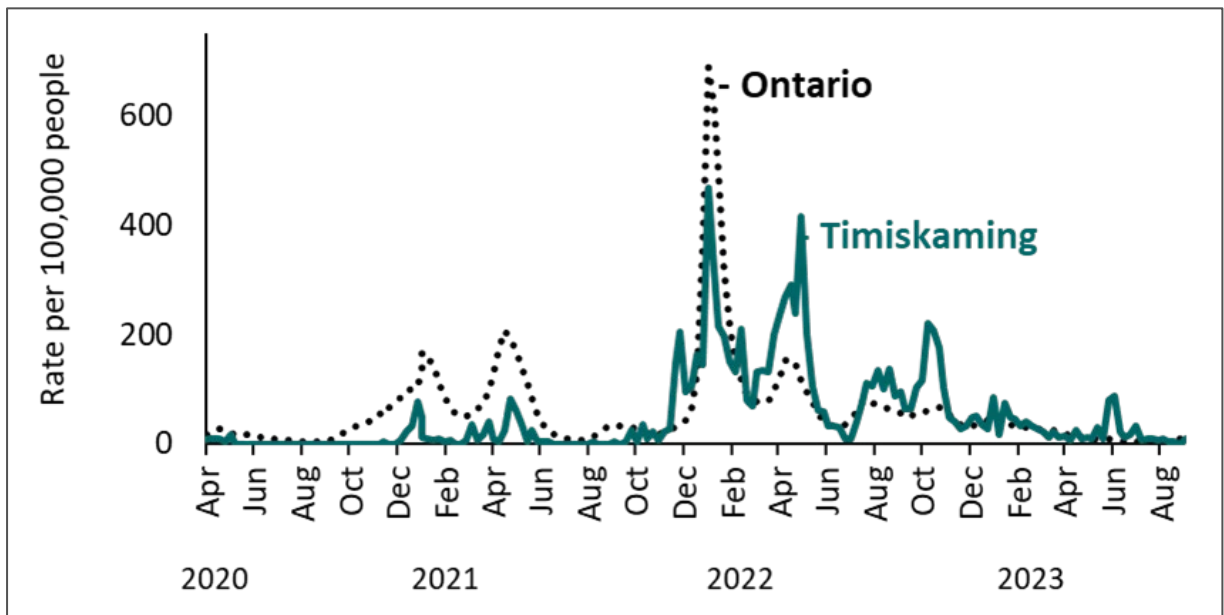
Infectious and Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

Outbreak counts by location from Q1 to Q3 2023 (all types of outbreaks)						
2023	Number of outbreaks	Number of cases				Number of deaths
		Staff	Resident /patient	Visitor	Other	
Long-Term Care & Nursing Homes	15	40	155	5	0	2
Hospitals	5	20	34	0	0	1
Congregate Living	5	15	19	0	0	1
Community	1	0	0	0	29	1
TOTAL	26	75	208	5	29	5

COVID-19 rates in Timiskaming and Ontario

COVID-19 – Q1 to Q3

- COVID cases in the THU area decreased from January to the end of June, then started increasing again near the fall.
- A total of 15 outbreaks were noted in the first half of the year
- LTCH/RH – 5
- Community Living – 5
- Acute Care - 5



COVID-19 Communications:

Below are some highlighted areas of work addressing COVID communication needs.

Public and External

- Webpages were maintained to keep information current regarding local and provincial guidance and recommendations for the public and various sectors including regulation changes. Clinic schedules, vaccine opportunities and recommendations, current case situation and vaccination by the numbers are posted to social media weekly.

Media Relations

- Media questions continued to be fielded from media locally and across the province.
- A weekly page in The Speaker ran from January to September 2023. All content was bilingual. The bottom half of this page is a calendar of upcoming COVID-19 vaccine clinics. The top half of the page consists of a short article, most often using the text from a recent social media post that has been deemed priority. The purpose of this page is to reach people, primarily seniors, who don't use social media.

Internal

- Updates for our area and for the province were communicated internally via all-staff emails as well as a virtual all-staff meeting.
- Social media pages from other Ontario health units are monitored for internal planning.

COVID-19 Booking Phone Line:

The COVID-19 booking phone line was maintained by a core team of THU staff during the summer months for those wanting to book an appointment for a COVID vaccine. We continue to promote and encourage clients to book their COVID-19 vaccine on-line; clients who do not have access to a computer and the internet can call the COVID-19 booking line for an appointment.

IPAC Hub:

Work continued through Q3 using the IPAC Hub model, with THU staff providing regular education and support to congregate care settings in the district (5 Long Term Care, 1 Retirement Home and 4 Community Living Sites). Meetings were held as needs arose, and updates from the province were provided as available. During Q3, we provided reports and other data to the ministry in the hopes of obtaining additional funding for the IPAC Hub to continue in 2023 and 2024.

Work Completed:

- Education sessions provided to LTCH/RH and CL partners on topics such as hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, diseases of public health significance.
- Education sessions were prepared by the IPAC Hub lead and will be offered in the fall months.
- Internal committee continues to meet weekly to discuss outbreaks and relevant topics.
- Participate in the Regional IPAC Hub table which was meeting every 2 months.
- Complete and submit monthly reporting tool on THU IPAC activities.
- Completed IPAC audits to several settings within the district.
- Completed IPAC audits to several programs within THU.

Variance:

- Unable to complete IPAC audits/site visits to all congregate care settings (2 of the 5) due to staff limitations.

Other Diseases of Public Health Significance

Reportable Diseases and Infection Control								
Client Services	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 Jan-Sept
Reportable Investigations (non-STI)	73	65	111	91	154	652	1,342 (1314 - COVID)	613 (524 - COVID)
Outbreaks - Institutional	14	29	33	18	25	16	18 (15 - COVID)	26 (17 - COVID)
Outbreaks - Community	0	0	0	0	2	23	0	0
Animal Bite Reporting	29	85	77	72	64	62	74	48
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)	82	61	78	67	75	69	28	41
Personal Service Settings Inspections (<i>hair salons, tattoos, piercings, aesthetics</i>)	47	50	52	49	31	10	14	13

Sexual Health Program:

The goal of the Sexual Health Program is to promote healthy sexuality.

- Sexual health services at THU include:
- STIs and testing,
- Pregnancy testing/options counselling,
- Sexuality,
- Sexual health
- Free condoms
- Low-cost birth control

Sexual Health								
Client Services	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Jan-Sept)
Male Clients	129	127	164	308	292	142	68	120
Female Clients	864	805	644	1014	690	295	137	185
% of clients between 12-24	-	-	66%	63%	56.3%	49.2%	46.8%	51.7%
Contraceptives (sold)	929	846	198	195	72	38	29	10*
Contraceptives (prescribed)	-	-	-	-	138	47	83	53
Plan B	41	25	23	25	16	3	13	2
STI Tests	215	201	257	329	241	102	111	131
Pregnancy Tests	28	36	37	39	20	12	19	23
Blood-Borne Infection Tests	124	97	140	148	58	27	42	55
Treatment Prescribed for STI	-	-	-	-	-	29	40	32
Pap tests	-	-	-	-	-	10	11	3

**this number denotes the amount of visits where contraceptives were sold, not the amount of contraceptives provided*

Work Completed:

- Continued with the creation of social media posts on various sexual health topics in collaboration with the youth initiative.
- Connected with additional partners (School team, CSCDGR, DSBONE, First Nations partners) to discuss bridging services.
- Participated in several learning opportunities to increase staff knowledge and competence.

Variance:

- New SH PHN in the south end continues to seek mentorship and education opportunities to enhance her knowledge.
- Several clients take advantage of OHIP+ to obtain contraception and are not purchasing directly from THU.

Immunizations

Immunization – Vaccine Safety and Vaccine Administration

COVID-19 Vaccine Program

Communications:

Continued social and traditional media and building on partnerships with community organizations to reach specific populations.

Other COVID-19 vaccine program highlights:

- The focus for Q3 consisted of information gathering, attending provincial meetings and planning for fall clinics following the ministry’s guidance of co-administration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines.

Routine Immunizations:

Immunization Program				
Immunizations Administered in Office	NL	KL	ENG	Total 2023 (Jan-Sept)
# of clients receiving immunizations	524	286	94	1668
# of immunizations administered	845	487	165	2915
Note: These numbers do not include Influenza Vaccine <i>Generated from PANORAMA-R07090 Immunization Administered or Wasted at Health Unit</i>				

2022-2023 Universal Influenza Immunization Program:

Year	Vaccine Fridges - Cold Chain Inspections					
	KL		NL		ENG	
	Total inspections	Total failures	Total inspections	Total failures	Total inspections	Total failures
2018	15	11	32	10	5	1
2019	15	7	30	12	10	2
2020	18	11	24	3	8	1
2021	19	4	28	3	9	0
2022	19	9	25	4	8	0
2023	7	9	10	0	4	1

Travel Health Vaccine Program:

***the Travel Health Vaccine Program ended effective September 30, 2023 to better align with the OPHS mandates and to focus energies and efforts on priority programs.

Travel Health Consultations							
Office	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Jan-Sept)
Kirkland Lake	259	210	208	109	0	95	140
New Liskeard	620	695	611	324	64	396	373
Englehart	(included in New Liskeard Statistics)						

Land Control

Septic Systems	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Permits Issued	131	111	124	38	66	76	106	125	70
File Searches	60	60	66	28	55	65	54	53	34
Severance/Subdivision	15	15	29	10	13	8	13	14	9

Safe Water

Drinking Water	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Small Drinking Water Systems	19	13	48	2	3	36	34
Recreational Water							
Public Beaches (Seasonal Jul-Aug)	16	17	17	19	0	0	17
Pools	25	18	28	8	13	8	13
Recreational Camps/Beachfront (Seasonal Jul-Aug)	11	9	11	0	5	9	7

Variance: Although we were able to inspect most of our recreational camps/beachfronts, which are all in remote areas, we were not able to get to all of them this season.

Healthy Environments and Climate Change

We continued to analyze the findings in the climate change and health [report](#), which was completed through the collaborative project of the northeastern health units. To increase the awareness of this topic the report was released and plans for next steps have been worked on in 2023. Our approach at this point has been to use the report to assist with prioritizing health concerns related to climate change that are of a greater risk specifically in our district. In partnership with Porcupine Health Unit, THU will continue to work to identify adaptation and mitigation strategies while still leveraging the knowledge and experience of the initial group when appropriate.

Variance:

- With other shifting priorities and reduced staff resources, there has been no further advancement in Q3 in this important area of work. Re-evaluating on how we can give this area of work more focus and support will take place in Q4 and into 2024.

Food Safety

Food Premises - Compliance Inspections									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
High Risk	165	184	109	93	88	47	29	29	36
Medium Risk	206	110	187	214	192	96	60	93	110
Low Risk	149	204	160	129	135	62	58	126	111
Total	520	498	456	436	415	205	147	248	257

Variance: Some areas of the district are behind in routine compliance inspections. Plans are in place to address this in Q4, specifically for high-risk locations.

Food Handler Certifications									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Englehart	63	26	23	75	58	3	24	10	18
New Liskeard/Tem	90	68	144	351	182	19	55	29	98
Kirkland Lake	70	41	58	127	15	34	5	12	5
Total	223	135	225	553	255	56	84	51	121

Variance: Additional opportunities will take place in Q4 for people to obtain their certification. Anyone at any time can take the on-line course as well.

Human Resource Update

The comings and goings of our colleagues



New Staff:

- Dental Hygienist, New Liskeard, Casual (Oct 2023 – March 2024)
- Practicum Placement – Healthy Eating Situational Assessment (Nov 2023 - Feb 2024)
- Epidemiologist, New Liskeard, Contract (Nov 2023- Nov 2024)

Retirement:

- n/a

Resignation:

- n/a

Current Vacancies:

- Research, Planning & Policy Analyst, District-Wide, Permanent
- Research, Planning & Policy Analyst – PH Strengthening, Contract
- Public Health Inspector, New Liskeard, Contract
- Public Health Inspector, Kirkland Lake, Permanent
- Dental Assistant, Kirkland Lake, Contract
- Public Health Registered Dietitian, District-Wide, Permanent

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