



Community and Health Services Department  
Public Health Branch

## Memorandum

TO: Members of Committee of the Whole  
FROM: Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health  
DATE: February 2, 2017  
RE: **Large Scale Immunization Sites**

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### Background

During the 2009 H1N1 response, identification of large scale immunization sites presented challenges for many areas of the province. As a result, in 2011 the *Health Promotion and Protection Act* was amended to provide the Chief Medical Officer of Health the authority to use premises for public health purposes.

### Large scale immunization site planning in York Region

The Public Health Branch has worked in close cooperation with the York Region District School Board and York Catholic School Board to establish Memoranda of Understanding and identify several schools throughout the Region that can be used as sites for large scale immunization, if needed. However, schools may not be available for community-wide clinics when they are in use by students for regular classes.

To supplement the specific school locations, which have been determined as satisfactory for large scale immunization clinics, municipal sites are being considered as alternate locations. Public Health is exploring municipal sites, two within the southern municipalities and two through the central corridor in the northern municipalities, to optimize service delivery in meeting the needs of population distribution. As a result, Public Health staff have been working with municipal emergency planners to identify and visit potential sites in the Cities of Markham and Vaughan, and the Towns of Georgina and Newmarket. Some site visits have been conducted in conjunction with Emergency Social Services and the Canadian Red Cross for the purpose of pre-identifying and assessing facilities for emergency responses.

In addition, Public Health has been exploring the use of Regional facilities for the purpose of large scale immunization.

#### Next Steps

Public Health will continue to collaborate with municipalities and Regional departments to identify prospective sites for large scale immunization and to enter into Memoranda of Understanding or formal agreements, as required.

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