

Medical Officer of Health and CEO Huron County Health Unit, Goderich, Ontario

Huron County, Ontario's West Coast is located along the shores of Lake Huron. This vibrant rural community is the most agriculturally productive county in Ontario, and a leader in numerous areas of agricultural technology and innovation. Here, urban amenities unite with rural benefits making any one of our nine municipalities the right fit for business and family. Our heritage buildings, streetscapes and homes, 100 km of golden coastline, lush countryside and fertile fields, extensive walking, biking and ski trails, excellent health care facilities and an abundance of educational and cultural opportunities are just some of the features that make Huron County a great place to call home.

Overview

The Medical Officer of Health (MOH) is responsible for the development of effective public health programs and services that promote and protect the health of those living within our community. The MOH is the CEO of the Board of Health and such is responsible for implementing policies and directives of the Board, and for the overall management of all programs, services, financial resources and functions of the Health Unit. The role includes:

- Ensuring the Board of Health is informed of its responsibilities in meetings the needs of the public.
- Ensuring that the Board of Health is informed of the activities of the Health Unit in performing its duties, programs and services as prescribe by provincial and municipal legislation.
- Providing recommendations, in consultation with corporate services where applicable, to the Board of Health regarding staffing, programs and services and community health needs.
- Preparing monthly and annual reports for the Board of Health.
- Attending meetings of the Board of Health, its committees, sitting ex-officio on standing, special staff or Board committees as specified in committee Terms of Reference.
- Ensuring, in consultation with County Treasury, the preparation of all annual program budgets by assigned staff, their final review by Senior Staff and their presentation to the Board of Health for approval.
- Maintaining responsibility for the activities of all Health Unit staff
- Ensuring all County policies and procedures are adhered to in all activities and that the County's corporate departments (Treasury, HR, Facilities, IT) are consulted with on all matters that fall within those departments purview to ensure consistency, fairness, and equity across County departments.

Monitor and Assess Health

The MOH plays an essential role in assessing the health of the public – this role includes understanding population health, identifying the factors which underlie good health and those which create health risks as follows:

- Ensuring the continuous epidemiological surveillance of the health status of the community and of the determinants of health in order to:
 - Gain overall understanding of the health status of the community
 - Monitor trends
 - Identify emerging health concerns
 - Develop possible health status scenarios related to the community
 - Monitor the development of specific health problems and of their determinants within the community
- Participating in the planning and development of appropriate programs and services to address the health needs of the community

Public Health Consultant

The MOH's unique education and training provides strong evidence-based decision-making and analytical abilities which allow the MOH to gather, appraise and integrate several sources of information in order to draw meaningful and relevant conclusions which are applicable to health programming and services. The role of the MOH includes:

- Acting as a source of public health expertise across a range of public health issues including: communicable diseases, environmental health, health promotion, disease prevention, health protection, chronic disease, injuries, infection prevention and control, maternal and child health and occupational health and safety.
- Advising the Board of Health on community health concerns, recommending strategies to address priority health issues and contributing to regional health planning
- Acting as the region's medical authority on public health through the provision of evidence-based advice to:
 - Public Health staff
 - Health care professionals particularly physicians
 - All levels of government, municipal councils, school boards, and the community
- Ensuring that the development and implementation of public health policies and practices are current, relevant and evidence-based.

Communicator

The MOH must be a credible and effective spokesperson, both proactively and when responding to a health crisis. The role of the MOH includes:

- Serving as the central information sources to the community on public health issues, programs/services and policies includes:
 - Board of Health
 - Health care professionals/institutions
 - Education institutes
 - Community health/social services agencies
 - Municipal council
 - General Public
- Proactively utilizing the media for public communication
- Report preparation regarding the health of the region and the dissemination of essential information to the general public

Public Health Advocate

The MOH champions public health issues into action. The MOH works with the appropriate partners to identify inequalities in health and create healthy public policy to reduce their impact on the community.

The role of the MOH includes:

- Developing public interest in health and its determinants
- Influencing political/partnership decision-making through evidence-based practices
- Speaking on behalf of the marginalized members of the community
- Promoting a public health system that is population health focused
- Promoting public health interventions of proven effectiveness at the provincial and national levels
- Promoting healthy public policy in all sectors

Collaborator

The MOH facilitates the partnership process by developing and shaping strategies with partners to identify opportunities which positively contribute to each stockholder's success. The role of the MOH includes:

- Effectively engage and influence others to improve and protect the community's health. Potential partners include:
 - The health care system
 - Other health related organizations
 - Government departments/organizations

- Aboriginal leaders/community members
- Academic partners
- Community groups, non-governmental organizations/businesses
- Collaboratively working within the public health system with:
 - Other public health units
 - The Provincial and municipal systems
 - Sitting on the appropriate committees as required
- Sitting on or ensuring the designation of appropriate staff on health and social planning or working committees, councils, etc.

Investigator of Immediate Risks to Health

The MOH is accountable for assessing the potential health risks to the community and taking the necessary steps to reduce/eliminate that risk. The MOH must also take on a leadership role in the preparation and response to public health emergencies.

The role of the MOH includes:

- Ensuring that the public health hazards are sufficiently anticipated for and prevented wherever possible and adequately investigating and controlling public health hazard if they develop
- Upholding, interpreting and enforcing, within the limits provided by statute, all pertinent federal and provincial regulations and municipal by-laws
- Ensuring the effective control of communicable diseases through the maintenance of surveillance, investigation, management, partner notification and follow up programs, this includes:
 - Advising/consulting with physicians, health care providers, other organizations and the communicable disease incidents/outbreaks
 - Providing direction and working with infectious disease staff
 - Leading outbreak and cluster investigations
- Participating in the monitoring and control of environmental health, this includes:
 - Providing direction and working with the public health inspectors
 - Participating in the development of environmental health policies and procedures
 - Partnering with stakeholders to assess environmental health concerns
 - Leading environmental hazard investigations
- Managing the development/updating and implementation of the regional public health emergency response plan

Policy Planning and Program Development

The MOH works to develop, make recommendations and implement public policies with the goal of improving health. The MOH also participates in the planning and implementation of public health programs and services. The role of the MOH includes:

- Developing and implementing all mandatory public health programs
- Developing and implementing public policies, programs and services supporting the improved health of the population
- Advising/planning on the development and evaluation of the appropriate programs/services to the communities needs
- Advising/planning on the development and evaluation of the appropriate programs/services that provide a continuum of care to the community

Management

The MOH is directly involved in the management of public health programs/services and as such is accountable for resources allocation, budget planning and control. The role of the MOH includes:

- Maintaining the direct supervision of:
 - Associate Medical Officer of Health (AMOH), where applicable
 - Administrative Services/Business Administrative Manager
 - All Public Health Managers of the Huron County Health Unit
 - Executive Assistant to the Office of the Medical Officer of Health
- Collaborating and providing direction to managers and staff
- Participating in the decision-making process which may impact the delivery of public health programs/services
- Chairing all management meetings
- Working closely with management to ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources
- Analyzing statistical data reports thus ensuring that programs are proceeding accordingly
- Participating in human resources practices to ensure that all staff are managed fairly and effectively

Professional

The MOH is health care professional and as such must perform the duties of the MOH in an ethical manner. The role of the MOH includes:

- Consistently maintaining the ethical and legal requirements for practice
- Treating people with respect
- Upholding expertise in public health
- Maintaining authority for certain medical acts performed by staff i.e. immunization and treatment of communicable diseases.

- Ensuring the maintenance of Royal College certification and ongoing competence in community medicine and epidemiology

Educator

Using specialized expertise, the MOH continuously contributes to the growth of public health knowledge and skills of others. The role of the MOH includes:

- Expanding the competencies of public health staff
- Sharing information with other health care providers regarding public health
- Participating in the training and development of future practitioner's i.e. contributing to the development of curriculum, preceptorships, research project supervision etc.

Leader

The MOH plays an essential role in public health leadership. Through collaboration and advocacy the MOH supports actions to improve and protect the health of the population. The MOH creates a shared vision and purpose which will drive programs/service initiatives.

The role of the MOH includes:

- Championing to improve and protect the health of the population
- Promoting a shared vision and purpose
- Taking the lead in the development of public health planning
- Cultivating organizational improvement through:
 - Working within the organization to maximize performance
 - Identifying public health trends/issues in order to determine public health priorities and establish standards for program initiatives
 - Working with senior management to share ideas and garner support of public health priorities
 - Collaborating with other public health officials on matter that go beyond regional boundaries
 - Maintaining accountability in the decision-making process

Eligibility

The candidate must meet the requirements of the Health Protection and Promotion Act (1190) (HPPA) S. 64: No person is eligible for appointment as a Medical Officer of Health unless;

- He or She is a physician
- He or she possesses the qualification and requirements prescribe by the regulations for the position, and
- The Minister approves the proposed appointment R.S.O 1990, c H 7. S. 64

Qualifications:

Regulation 566 of the HPPA provides as follows that:

1.(1) The requirements for employment as a medical officer of health in addition to those set out in section 64 of the Act are that the person be the holder of:

a). A fellowship in community medicine from The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or
b). A certificate, diploma or degree from a university in Canada that is granted after not less than one academic year of full time post graduate studies or its equivalent in public health comprising of:

- Epidemiology
- Quantitative methods
- Management and administration, an
- Disease prevention and health promotion, or

c). A qualification from a university outside Canada that is considered by the Minister to be equivalent to the qualifications set out in clause (b).

Occupational Health and Safety

Follow all policies and procedures to ensure personal safety and safety of others.

Reports any equipment or safety problems.

The Huron County Health Unit is a department within the Corporation of the County of Huron. The MOH is an employee of the Board of Health. All other employees of the Huron County Health Unit are employees of Huron County. However it is understood that employees of the Health Unit are subject to the direction of and are responsible to the MOH of the Board in performing those duties relating to the delivery of public health in Huron County. All the duties and requirements, as listed in the document, are the sole responsibility of the MOH, keeping with the mandate of the Board of Health. It is understood that County policies and procedure are to be adhered to and enforces by the MOH in all operations of the Health Unit. The Health Unit may have operational policies, provided they do not conflict and meet the minimum standards set out by the County policies and procedures.

Huron County provides that Health Unit with corporate services (treasury, HR, facilities and IT), as both a support and internal control, to assist the MOH in fulfilling operational requirements. Corporate services work within the direction and guide-lines provided by County Council approved policy and help to ensure consistency, fairness and equity across County departments. The MOH, Health Unit staff and corporate services will work “together” to assist the MOH in delivering and fulfilling the mandate of the Board of Health.

To explore this opportunity further, contact and/or email your resume to:

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