


Ontario Public Health Standards: Launch Day Environmental Health Overview

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Comparison of 1997 and 2008 Documents

MHPSG (3 standards; 6 protocols)

- Food Safety Standard
 - Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Protocol
 - Food Recall Protocol
 - Food Handling Protocol
- Safe Water Standard
 - Beach Management Protocol
 - Operation of Public Spas Protocol
 - Public Wading Pools Protocol
- Health Hazard Investigation

OPHS (3 standards; 6 protocols)

- Food Safety Standard
 - Food Safety Protocol
- Safe Water Standard
 - Drinking Water Protocol
 - Recreational Water Protocol
 - Beach Management Protocol
- Health Hazard Prevention and Management Standard
 - Identification, Investigation & Management of Health Hazards Protocol
 - Risk Assessment and Inspection of Facilities Protocol

Development and Consultation Process

- Development Process
 - Three Protocol Development Teams – one per standard
 - Active and diverse health unit involvement
 - Meetings held in Fall-Winter 2008
- Consultation Process:
 - E-Survey
 - Public Health E-Portal
 - Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry

Stakeholder Feedback

- General Comments

- √ Harmonize use of language (e.g., 24/7 requirements)
- √ Develop glossary and define key terms and concepts
- √ Develop guidance documents
- √ Questions of clarification re: small drinking water systems program
- √ Specific feedback re: individual protocols

Food Safety Standard / Protocols

Food Safety Standard

- **Goal**: to prevent or reduce the burden of food-borne illness
- **Societal Outcomes**: e.g., there is reduced incidence of food-borne illness
- **Board of Health Outcomes**: e.g., timely and effective detection and identification of food-borne illnesses, their associated risk factors and emerging trends, and unsafe food in food premises
- **Requirements**: range from:
 - Conducting surveillance
 - Conducting epidemiological analysis of surveillance data
 - Reporting data to MOHLTC
 - Ensuring food handlers in food premises have access to training
 - Increasing public awareness
 - Ensuring 24/7 availability (for receiving reports and responding)
 - Inspecting food premises and providing all the components of the Food Safety Program

Food Safety Protocol

- **Purpose**: to assist in the prevention or reduction of food-borne illness by providing direction to boards of health on the delivery of local, comprehensive food safety management programs.
- **Outline**:
 - Surveillance and inspection
 - Inventory of food premises
 - Food safety management system
 - Management and Response
 - 24/7 on-call and response policy
 - Enforcement actions and procedures
 - Food recall
 - Education and Training
 - Food safety education
 - Food safety training and certification
 - Reporting
 - Inspection activity reporting system
 - Annual food safety audit reports
 - Food premises inspection disclosure

Food Safety Protocol – Highlights

- Carries-over main requirements from the existing Food Recall, HACCP and Food Handler Training protocols
- Annual site-specific risk assessments and assignment of risk categories (with assistance from a new *Risk Categorization Model* – provided for information)
- Removes the annual HACCP audits and expands the routine food safety inspections (e.g., incorporating HACCP-based principles)
- Inspection frequencies (same as previous)
- Food safety training program (with minimum course requirements)
- Food premises inspection disclosure – provide food premises compliance inspection reports to the public upon request and post the disclosure process on the board of health's website
- Food Safety Audit reporting – March 31st deadline (versus Jan 31st)

Safe Water Standard / Protocols

Safe Water Standard

- **Goal**: to prevent or reduce the burden of water-borne illness related to drinking water and to prevent or reduce the burden of water-borne illness and injury related to recreational water use
- **Societal Outcomes**: e.g., public exposure to water-borne illnesses is mitigated
- **Board of Health Outcomes**: e.g., timely and effective detection and identification of water contaminants and illnesses, their associated risk factors, and emerging trends
- **Requirements**: range from:
 - Reporting Safe Water Program data elements
 - Conducting surveillance (e.g., of drinking water systems, public beaches, recreational water facilities)
 - Conducting epidemiological analysis of surveillance data
 - Providing information to private citizens who operate their own wells, cisterns, rain or lake system
 - Providing education/training for owners/operators of drinking water systems / recreational water facilities
 - Increasing public awareness
 - Ensuring 24/7 availability (for receiving reports and responding)
 - Providing all the components of the Safe Water Program
 - Informing the public about unsafe drinking water conditions
 - Reducing risks of public beach and recreational water facility use

Drinking Water Protocol

- **Purpose:** to provide direction in the prevention and reduction of water-borne illness related to drinking water by providing direction to boards of health on the components of the Safe Water Program.
- **Outline:**
 - Surveillance and inspection
 - Inventory
 - Inspections of Drinking Water Systems
 - Inspections of Small Drinking Water Systems
 - Management and Response
 - 24/7 on-call and response policy
 - Enforcement actions and procedures
 - Liaison with agencies and ministries
 - Education and Training
 - Drinking water education
 - Providing water sampling bottles for unregulated drinking water systems
 - Reporting
 - Inspection activities – general
 - Inspection activities – small drinking water systems

Drinking Water Protocol – Highlights

- Outlines the new Small Drinking Water Systems (SDWS) program requirements, including the new *SDWS Risk Assessment Directives Guidance Document*
- Updates existing documents and references them for information: *Drinking Water Haulage Guidance Document* and *Response to Adverse Drinking Water Quality Incidents Guidance Document*
- Inspection frequencies for other drinking water systems:
 - Systems regulated under the HPPA: inspected on a “response basis”
 - Drinking water haulage vehicles: inspected annually
- Liaison with agencies and ministries, including semi-annual meetings with MOE
- Availability of water sampling bottles from Public Health Laboratories for owners of unregulated drinking water systems
- Reporting of adverse drinking water notifications including: date issued, date rescinded, corrective measures taken

Recreational Water Protocol

- **Purpose**: to assist in the prevention and reduction of water-borne illness and injury related to recreational water use by providing direction to boards of health on the components of the Safe Water Program related to public recreational water facilities.
- **Outline**:
 - Surveillance and inspection
 - Inventory of recreational water facilities
 - Assessment and inspection of recreational water facilities
 - Management and Response
 - 24/7 on-call and response policy
 - Enforcement actions and procedures
 - Liaison with community agencies
 - Education and Training
 - Recreational water education
 - Training of owners and operators of regulated recreational water facilities
 - Reporting


Recreational Water Protocol – Highlights

- Replaces the *Operation of Public Spas Protocol, January 1998* and *Public Wading Pools Protocol, January 1998*
- Routine inspection frequency: at least two times per year and no less than once every 3 months while operating
 - This applies for regulated public pools and public spas, as well as non-regulated recreational water facilities (e.g., public wading pools and splash pads / spray pads and water slide receiving basins)
- References the new *Operating Procedures for Non-Regulated Recreational Water Facilities Guidance Document* for information
- Recreational water training program (with minimum training requirements)

Beach Management Protocol

- **Purpose**: to assist in the prevention and reduction of water-borne illness and injury related to recreational water use at public beaches, and to assist boards of health in the delivery of local, comprehensive public beach management programs.
- **Outline**:
 - Surveillance and inspection
 - Pre-season assessment (including inventory)
 - Routine public beach surveillance
 - Management and Response
 - 24/7 on-call and response policy
 - Enforcement actions and procedures
 - Communication and education
 - Reporting

Beach Management Protocol – Highlights

- Replaces the *Beach Management Protocol, January 1998*
 - Pre-season assessment of all public beaches each year includes an inventory of public beaches, a review of historical, environmental and epidemiological data, and an environmental survey.
 - During routine beach assessment, environmental factors (e.g., public beach water conditions, heavy rain, storm sewer outfalls, wave action) are considered, in addition to water sample results, to determine appropriate course of action
 - Signage posting is considered when the daily geometric mean of the samples for a public beach exceeds MOE's Guideline for Recreational Water Quality
 - References the new *Operating Procedures for Responding to Adverse Events at Public Beaches* for information, to assist in responding to and reporting potentially hazardous spills and other adverse events at public beaches.
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Health Hazard Prevention and Management Standard / Protocols

Health Hazard Prevention & Management Standard

- **Goal**: to prevent or reduce the burden of illness from health hazards in the physical environment
- **Societal Outcomes**: e.g., there is reduced incidence of adverse health outcomes from exposure to chemical, radiological, biological and other physical factors
- **Board of Health Outcomes**: e.g., timely and effective detection and identification of exposures of human health concern and associated public health risks, trends and illnesses
- **Requirements**: range from:
 - Conducting surveillance
 - Conducting epidemiological analysis of surveillance data
 - Increasing public awareness
 - Assisting community partners to develop healthy policies
 - Ensuring 24/7 availability (for responding to and managing health hazards)
 - Inspecting and assessing facilities where there is an elevated risk of illness
 - Implementing control measures
 - Developing a local vector-borne management strategy (in accordance with the *Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2008* or as current)
 - Maintaining systems to support timely and comprehensive communication

Identification, Investigation & Management of HHs Protocol

- **Purpose**: to assist in the prevention and reduction of adverse health outcomes from health hazards in the environment by providing direction to boards of health on the delivery of comprehensive, local health hazard prevention and management programs.
- **Outline**:
 - Hazard Management System
 - Hazard Identification and Surveillance
 - Hazard Investigation
 - Health Hazard Prevention and Management
 - Reporting

Identification...of HHs Protocol – Highlights

- New protocol for developing and implementing a health hazard management system to **identify, assess** and **manage** health hazards in the environment
- **Identify**: outlines process for reviewing relevant information, liaising with partners, collecting data on health status of residents, and conducting analyses
- **Assess**: outlines requirements for responding through 24/7 on call system (e.g., preliminary assessments, as well as investigations and risk assessments with relevant community and government agencies, as appropriate)
- **Manage**: in collaboration with the lead government agencies with primary responsibility for the environmental health issue and/or other parties, outlines requirements for:
 - Developing options and implementing action plans
 - Developing and implementing risk communication strategies
 - Providing educational material and/or information to the public
 - Monitoring corrective actions / addressing non-compliance.

Risk Assessment and Inspection of Facilities Protocol

- **Purpose**: to provide direction in the prevention and reduction of adverse health outcomes arising from health hazards in the environment associated with facilities by providing direction to boards of health including the surveillance, assessment, inspection and management of such hazards.
- **Outline**:
 - Surveillance and Inspection
 - Inventory of facilities
 - Assessment and inspection of facilities
 - Management and Response
 - 24/7 on-call and response policy
 - Enforcement actions and procedures
 - Reporting

Risk ...of Facilities Protocol – Highlights

- New protocol for assessing and inspecting health hazards in the environment associated with specified facilities:
- Inspection frequencies:
 - A minimum of one inspection per year for facilities under the authority of the HPPA and/or its regulations (recreational camps, camps in unorganized territories, premises used or intended for use as a boarding house or lodging house)
 - A minimum of one inspection per year for licensed day nurseries
 - A minimum of one inspection per year upon request for seasonal farm workers' housing
 - Risk assessments and/or inspections upon notification that a health hazard may exist for other facilities that are not regulated under the HPPA (e.g., Ice arenas, schools, day nurseries and other childcare facilities, long-term care homes, and group homes)
- References the new *Operational Standards for Risk Assessment and Inspection of Facilities* to assist with conducting inspections, for information.

Next Steps

- Environmental Health Workshop: November 26, 2008
- Release of Guidance Documents named in the Protocols
 - December 1st Release:
 - Drinking Water Haulage Guidance Document
 - Small Drinking Water Systems Risk Assessment Directives Guidance Document
 - Response to Adverse Drinking Water Quality Incidents Guidance Document
 - January 1st Release:
 - Food Safety Risk Categorization Model
 - Operating Procedures for Non-Regulated Recreational Water Facilities Guidance Document
 - Operating Procedures for Responding to Adverse Events at Public Beaches
 - Operational Standards for Risk Assessment and Inspection of Facilities
- Ongoing communication with health units re: implementation of the standards / protocols and feedback for subsequent iterations.