



Subject: Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control Policy

Report Number: CAO 24-018

Department: Office of the CAO

Submitted by: Joanna Kurowski, Human Resources Manager

Meeting Type: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, September 9, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT report CAO 24-018 titled “Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control Policy” be received as information; and
- B. THAT Council approves the update of the Covid-19 Policy to the Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control Policy; and
- C. THAT a By-Law to repeal the previous Policy and replace with the new Policy be presented to Council for consideration.

BACKGROUND

In 2020 after the breakout of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Town of Tillsonburg introduced the Covid-19 Policy that provided guidelines to controls and prevention of the anticipated exposure to the virus causing Covid-19 infections. The policy has been in effect for the past four years. This policy is now redundant as the pandemic has ended. Staff updated the policy into a general infectious diseases prevention and control policy and are recommending that the updated policy replaces the Covid-19 policy and to be in effect during an outbreak of infectious diseases in the community. The outbreak would be defined by the health authorities and the Town staff would follow their recommendations. This new policy would assist with prevention of spread of infectious diseases among employees and community members.

DISCUSSION

The arrival of Covid-19 virus and its impact on staff and the Tillsonburg community had resulted in introduction of preventive measures to protect staff and the public from the spread of the virus. The policy introduced at the time, focused on the particular issue (Covid-19). With the pandemic ending, a number of control measures have been eliminated; however, the Town would benefit from having a general infectious diseases prevention and control policy that would provide guidelines in case of future disease outbreaks in the community. Such outbreaks, for example flu, measles or any other significant viral infections, can be very contagious and could result in a negative impact on the levels of staffing and services to the community.

Infection prevention control is evidence based practical approach protecting staff and community members from becoming harmed by avoidable infections.

The Covid-19 policy provided valuable guidelines to prevent and control of the viral outbreak and set guidelines to mitigate transmission and exposure of infections. The content of the policy is applicable not only to another outbreak of Covid-19 but also to assist with future anticipated outbreaks of other infectious diseases.

This policy is applicable to employees, clients, visitors and contractors of the Town and is applicable only during an outbreak of infectious disease in the community.

The policy outlines roles and responsibilities of all groups of staff as well as provides information on risk assessment and controls in place to reduce the risk of exposure. In the event of any future major outbreak, the Town would also work closely with community medical experts for detailed guidelines and directions.

CONSULTATION

STL, Managers.

FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

There is no financial impact due to revision of this policy.

CORPORATE GOALS

- Lifestyle and amenities
- Customer service, communication and engagement
- Business attraction, retention and expansion
- Community growth
- Connectivity and transportation
- Not Applicable

Does this report relate to a specific strategic direction or project identified in the Community Strategic Plan? Please indicate section number and/or any priority projects identified in the plan.

Goal – through community and regional partnerships, Tillsonburg would attract and retain a diverse range of businesses, creating employment opportunities for residents.

Strategic Direction – support local businesses in post-Covid-19 recovery.

Priority Project – N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – HR-051 Covid-19 Prevention and Control Policy

Appendix B – Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control Policy draft 2024