

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Monday, January 25, 2021

WARD(S): ALL

**TITLE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH YORK REGION
PUBLIC HEALTH FOR MASS IMMUNIZATION CLINIC SPACE**

FROM:

Deryn Rizzi, Acting Deputy City Manager, Community Services

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To request Council approval for the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (the “MOU”) between York Region (the “**Region**”) and the City of Vaughan (the “**City**”) for the purposes of conducting mass immunization at Maple Community Centre to protect public health during this COVID-19 public health emergency. The MOU will establish expectations, roles and responsibilities of all parties.

Report Highlights

- The Region and the City have negotiated an MOU for a mass immunization site at the Maple Community Centre that was assessed by and deemed viable by York Region Public Health.
- The MOU establishes roles and responsibilities of both parties.
- The MOU supports protecting public health against the current COVID-19 pandemic and future public health emergencies through a vaccine delivery site.

Recommendation

1. That a By-law be enacted to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Region to facilitate a vaccine clinic at the Maple Community Centre, in a form satisfactory to Legal Services.

Background

City and Region staff have been in negotiations in the latter part of 2020 to formalize language for an MOU for conducting mass immunization operations at City owned facilities. Mutually agreeable conditions and language was finalized in late December.

York Region Public Health and the Emergency Planning program staff have met regularly to discuss possible options for mass immunization clinic locations in the event of a public health emergency prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Public Health staff identified that the Maple Community Centre is their first option for a mass immunization clinic in the City.

Discussions continue with York Region Public Health on other sites that may be assessed in the City for static mass immunization and drive thru immunization clinics. Public Health plans to open the first location in Vaughan by the end of February/early March with additional locations following subject to Provincial rollout of mass vaccinations. The implementation of additional sites is dependent on the availability of vaccine, storage requirements and the amount of vaccine allocated to York Region from each delivery. Further sites will be brought to Council for approval as discussed and agreed to with the Region.

The Province has issued the *Ethical Framework for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution* which is being followed by York Region Public Health in the planning and implementing of mass immunization clinics. The Ministry of Health has directed that vaccine distribution planning include multiple methods. York Region Public Health is planning for 50% of the vaccine be administered through community stakeholders such as physicians, health care clinics and pharmacies. Public Health will administer the other 50% through static sites such as community centres, schools, drive thru sites and mobile clinics. City staff are working directly with the Region on the Vaccine Planning Team.

York Region has indicated that they will require staffing support from the municipalities at the clinic in non-medical roles. Discussions are occurring between the Region and the municipalities to manage this requirement.

Previous Reports/Authority

Not applicable

Analysis and Options

As a result of lessons learned from the H1N1 mass immunization clinic in 2009, Public Health staff developed an assessment protocol and process for future mass immunization clinics. Based on the H1N1 vaccine clinic experience it was mutually agreed upon that any joint use facilities that housed both community centres and secondary schools would be excluded (Vellore Village and Rosemount).

In 2016, York Region Community and Health Services emergency management staff identified potential locations based on the identified emergency shelters in each community. Public Health selected Dufferin Clark, Father Ermanno Bulfon, Garnet A. Williams and Maple Community Centres for assessment to determine which site best met their needs as a future mass immunization clinic.

Only large facilities with multiple rooms and gyms would be assessed. The facility had to be on a public transit route, easily accessible, have lots of parking, be centrally located and meet accessibility standards. These facilities needed to have the necessary infrastructure in place such as Wi-Fi, public address systems, kitchen facilities and three of the facilities had emergency cots and blankets for provision of health care.

The original concept of a mass immunization site was for short term use (1 to 2 days) for health emergencies vaccination for conditions such as meningitis, Hepatitis A/B and influenza. The concept has changed dramatically for the COVID-19 mass immunization clinics where they will run for approximately 15 hours a day, seven days a week from April to September.

The criteria used to evaluate the facilities in 2016 included;

- Centrally located for ease of access (on a main road).
- Space for mass immunization line-up for reception (50-60 chairs) that also accommodates physical distancing.
- Dedicated area for mass immunization screening (20-30 chairs; 4-6 tables).
- Reception/consent area.
- Line-up area (visually separate from immunizing area).
- Nursing stations (40-80 chairs; 15-30 tables).
- Vaccine preparatory area.
- Post supervision area (visually separate).
- Post immunization area.
- Accessible parking and accessible by public transit.

York Region Public Health following their initial assessment in 2016, concluded that the Maple Community Centre would be most beneficial to the community for a mass immunization clinic. The Maple Community Centre is situated centrally in the City of Vaughan and is easily accessible with ample parking. There are multiple rooms for use and a separate area for staff to take their breaks.

The comments on the other three facilities assessed identified that:

- Dufferin Clark was identified as a potential location.
- Father Ermanno Bulfon had challenges with two main points of entry into the building from different roads which has implications for control of access and egress.
- Garnet A. Williams will be undergoing major construction this year and will not be available.

City and Public Health staff conducted an assessment of the Maple Community Centre on January 12, 2021 and were advised that process for COVID-19 mass immunization clinics will differ from processes used for other health emergencies. The COVID-19 vaccine process includes a longer recovery time post vaccination of up to 30 to 40 minutes to observe for side effects. Additional criteria that Public Health is using in their assessments include;

- Separate entry and egress points so incoming and outgoing clients do not cross paths.
- Large space to include all functions in one area (intake, vaccination and post vaccine recovery).
- Space to accommodate specialized freezers.
- Ease of traffic flow within the building.

Financial Impact

The MOU will address reimbursement of costs, loss in revenue from facility rentals and programs, actual costs of supplies, overtime salaries related to the use of the access to the facilities and paid to City staff directly in relation to the operation, additional utility costs for heating and lighting, additional expenses incurred in cleaning, additional security costs, and long distance telephone charges.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

The MOU establishes expectations, roles and responsibilities for mass immunization locations in public health emergencies for the Region and the City that will benefit all citizens of the Region.

Conclusion

Executing the MOU with the Region supports service delivery to citizens in need during a public health emergency.

For more information, please contact Sharon Walker, Manager of Emergency Planning, Extension 6322.

Attachment

1. Draft Mass Immunization MOU By-law.

Prepared by

Sharon Walker, Manager of Emergency Planning, Extension 6322.

Approved byA handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "D. Rizzi".

Deryn Rizzi, Acting Deputy City
Manager of Community Services

Reviewed byA handwritten signature in dark ink that appears to read "Jim Harnum".

Jim Harnum, City Manager