

**Date:** 2020-01-22

**Subject:** COVID-19 Improper Disposal of Sharps Mitigation Measures – Downtown Brampton – January 2021 Update (RM 29-2020)

**Contact:** Mikkel Marr, Director, Organizational Performance and Strategy  
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**Report Number:** CAO's Office-2021-158

**Recommendations:**

1. That the report titled: **[COVID-19 Improper Disposal of Sharps Mitigation Measures – Downtown Brampton – January 2021 Update (RM 29-2020)]** to the Committee of Council meeting February 3, 2021 be received.

**Overview:**

- The objective of the pilot is to reduce the amount of improperly disposed of sharps in Downtown Brampton and collect data that can be used to develop a Region-wide strategy for the safe disposal of sharps.

**Background:**

During the May 5, 2020 weekly Social Support Task Force meeting, partner organizations Regeneration Outreach and the Knights Table expressed they had noticed an increase in unsafely disposed sharps around their property.

Social Support Taskforce staff followed up with Brampton's Security Services and determined that the incidents were also increasing within Brampton's downtown.

At the May 13, 2020 City Council meeting, a motion, moved by Regional Councillor Santos and seconded by Councillors Medeiros, Bowman and Vicente, was introduced, with the operative that staff engage with the Region of Peel to collaboratively address

this risk within Brampton impacting our vulnerable populations and create an action plan to address this growing concern during the COVID-19 pandemic; and that staff install "Sharps" receptacles within Brampton's downtown high incident areas; and that staff report back to council regarding progress of these actions at a future Council Meeting – May 27, 2020

In addition, at Regional Council on May 14, 2020, Councillor Rowena Santos noted that City of Brampton staff were directed to report to the May 27th City Council meeting regarding the progress of actions to address the immediate concerns related to an increase in sharps related incidents during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency period.

As such, the Acting Commissioner of Health Services and the Commissioner of Public Works undertook to work with local municipal staff and community partners to understand and address the current issue and then report back to Regional Council on a broader approach to the safe disposal of sharps in the community.

May 21, 2020, City of Brampton Staff from Security Services, Brampton Emergency Management Office and CAO Office met with Region of Peel Staff from Housing Services, Public Works and Community Partnerships to collaborate on creative solutions and next steps.

As a result of the collaborative engagement, Brampton Staff and Region of Peel Staff agreed to implement a Downtown Brampton COVID-19 Sharps Disposal Mitigation Pilot where receptacles will be installed at 11 "hot" spots as well as at Regeneration and Knights Table, and that the results of this pilot will be considered as part of the Region of Peel's work related to community safety and harm reduction.

The Agenda included:

1. A review of the May 13, 2020 City of Brampton Motion for alignment
2. Considerations for installation of Sharps receptacles
3. Longer-term work related to safe sharp disposal
4. Next steps

### **Current Situation:**

On-going pilot program, COVID-19 Improper Disposal of Sharps Mitigation Measures – Downtown Brampton – January 2021 Update included in Appendix A "COVID-19 Improper Disposal of Sharps Mitigation Measures Downtown Brampton – January Update" which provides updates on Measurements, Receptacle usage and Monthly Sharps count frequency.

### **Corporate Implications:**

#### Financial Implications:

No additional funding required.

Region of Peel to utilize existing contract with ESC Cares for extent of the pilot through COVID-19 emergency related funding.

Other Implications:

NIL – Pilot Program

**Term of Council Priorities: Community partnerships – Community Safety**

**Conclusion:**

Sharps refer to needles, as well as items such as scalpels, lancets, razor blade, scissors, metal wire, retractors, clamps, pins, staples, cutters, and glass items. Essentially, any object that is able to cut the skin can be considered a "sharp". These items can be found in our communities, private or public properties, roads, and/or parks.

These items are a cause for concern and anxiety for the general public, and may present a potential risk of infection if they are not handled and disposed of in a safe manner. Although the risk is low, contaminated sharps that puncture the skin can transmit infectious agents, such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus, and hepatitis C virus. The purpose of this pilot program is to minimize this risk by decreasing the exposure of the public to all sharps and ensuring their safe disposal.

**Short-term actions:**

Downtown Brampton COVID-19 Sharps Disposal Mitigation Pilot (June 3, 2020 – September 5, 2021):

- Installation of Large sharps kiosk-style receptacle and Wall-mounted receptacles  
Joint Municipal-Regional Sharps Mitigation action plan:
- Communication, education and signage - enhanced communication between City of Brampton, Peel Outreach and Peel Public Health Harm Reduction Program

**Medium term and Long-term Recommendations:**

Providing input into the Region of Peel's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan and Peel Public Health's and harm reduction work

- Having centralized sharps drop boxes
- Supporting the Region of Peel safe consumption site(s) in an area that is easily accessible.
- The Region of Peel is leading the Peel Opioid Strategy and collaborating with stakeholders on a Regional drug strategy that may provide insight on this matter

Authored by:

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Approved by:

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Submitted by:

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Report authored by: Mikkel Marr, Director Organizational Performance and Strategy  
APPENDIX A authored by: Region of Peel

**Attachments:**

Appendix A

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	COVID-19 Improper Disposal of Sharps Mitigation Measures – Downtown Brampton – January 2021 Update.docx
Attachments:	- Feb 3 2021 Appendix A COVID-19 Improper Disposal of Sharps Mitigation Measures – Downtown Brampton – Update (RM 29-2020).docx
Final Approval Date:	Jan 28, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**David Barrick - Jan 28, 2021 - 7:14 PM**