

APPENDIX A

COVID-19 Improper Disposal of Sharps Mitigation Measures

Downtown Brampton – January Update



1. Pilot Project Summary

In May 2020, City of Brampton Council passed a resolution that City staff engage with the Region of Peel to address the risk of improper disposal (litter) and handling of sharps within Brampton and install sharps receptacles within Downtown Brampton’s high incident areas. City of Brampton staff identified 11 “hot spots” as the best sites for sharps receptacles.

The matter was also discussed at Regional Council in May 2020 where the Acting Commissioner of Health Services 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. The Interim Commissioner of Public Works advised that the Region’s contract for sharps disposal is available for the City of Brampton to use at their discretion.

The Region received funding through the federal government’s Reaching Home program to install sharp receptacles for a one-year pilot running from July 2020 to August 2021. Regional staff oversaw the installation of the receptacles and monthly track the number of sharps collected by the vendor. City of Brampton staff provide data on the number of littered sharps collected by their staff.

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.

2. Installation of Sharps Receptacles

Nine sharps receptacles were installed in “hot spots” in July. Two additional receptacles were installed in October and November.

1. 65 Queen St E - Four Corners Library
2. 8 Nelson St W – Brampton Transit Terminal
3. 16 John St – Peel Living Apartment
4. 1 Theatre Lane – Market Square Parking Garage
5. 2 Diplock Lane – Nelson Parking Garage
6. Vivian Lane
7. McKinney Lane
8. 287 Glidden Rd – The Knight’s Table
9. 253 Queen St E – Regeneration Thrift Store
10. 44 Church St E – St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church (installed in October)
11. 156 Main St N – Regeneration Outreach/Grace United Church (installed in November)

St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church – Regional Councillors Santos and Vicente emailed staff at the end of August to inquire about a receptacle at this location as they are seeing more sharps during COVID. Staff completed a site assessment and worked with the property owner to install a wall-mounted receptacle in October.

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Regeneration Outreach/Grace United Church – This location was originally identified as a “hot spot” in July, however there were barriers to installing the receptacle. Staff worked with the property owner to pour a concrete pad at the site and the receptacle was installed in November.

3. Measurement

Measurement	Update (July – December)
Monthly service (collection) data for the sharps receptacles	<p>From July to December, the collection data shows that six out of eleven sharps receptacles are being used. See Table 1, Receptable Usage for details.</p> <p>As shown in Figure 1, since the receptacles were installed there has been a decrease in the number of littered sharps and an increase in the number of sharps collected by the vendor. Usage of the receptacles peaked in December which corresponds to an increase in activity at The Knight’s Table and the Regeneration Thrift Store as reported by facility staff. Both locations serve as food banks for the community.</p> <p>December is the first month showing a significant increase in number of sharps collected. It is not clear if this is a one-off or a sign that the community has embraced the usage of certain sharps receptacles.</p> <p>Staff will continue to monitor the vendors collection data in order to assess the receptacle types and locations to determine if it is necessary to relocate the receptacles to high traffic areas where the targeted users congregate.</p>
Qualitative feedback from City of Brampton staff and community organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Peel Police</u>: Officers are not locating many sharps during their patrols nor have they received many direct complaints while they are patrolling. - <u>Regeneration Outreach</u>: Since the receptacles were installed, Regeneration staff haven’t noticed as many sharps on the property. They are also seeing less people hanging out of the property due to COVID-19. - <u>Regeneration Thrift Store</u>: Staff are still finding littered sharps around the property, including near the receptable. On average, there are 10 littered sharps per week however on some days they are finding 6 sharps per day. - <u>Peel Living</u>: Staff have not experienced any issues with sharps since the receptacles were installed.
Pilot costs	<p>To date, \$9,670 has been spent on the pilot. This includes installation of the receptacles and six months of service.</p> <p>Staff originally budgeted \$80,000 for the pilot to account for a two-year pilot and twice per month service for the receptacles. After discussion with</p>

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	Human Services, this budget was reduced to \$26,240 for a one-year pilot with once per month service.
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Table 1: Receptacle Usage

Month	Receptacles Used
July	None
August	Four locations: - Brampton Transit - Four Corners Library - McKinney Lane - The Knight’s Table
September	Two repeat locations: - Four Corners Library - McKinney Lane
October	One repeat, one new location: - McKinney Lane - Regeneration Thrift Store
November	One repeat, one new location: - McKinney Lane - St. Andrew’s Church
December	Two repeat locations: - The Knight’s Table - Regeneration Thrift Store

Figure 1: Monthly Sharp Counts in Downtown Brampton

