

Overview:

With the Province now in Stage Two of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Province is recommending that employers have a policy to address infectious disease preparedness and response. The policy will address the following topics:

- Roles and Responsibilities of Employers, Supervisors and Staff
- The level of risk and how best to mitigate that risk
- Operations during a pandemic along with best practices
- Equipment and Resources
- How to report illness
- A return to work framework for those who may have been ill
- Physical Distancing and use of PPE and other items such as face covers
- Scheduling of Work

This Policy is designed to not only address the Covid-19 pandemic but to be used in the event of future pandemics or public health emergencies. As the recommendations and directives from the Province and the local public health authorities are being constantly updated and refined as more research is completed, this Policy will need to be reviewed and revised more often than other Policies to ensure that it is addressing best practices. The Policy was developed based on recommendations from the Public Services Health and Safety Association, Peterborough Public Health and the Province of Ontario.

Conclusion:

As Stage Two of the Covid-19 pandemic continues it is essential to have a policy in place that provides direction on infectious disease preparedness and response.

Recommendation:

That the C.A.O.-2020-28 report, dated June 24, 2020, regarding the Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Policy be received, that Council approves the Policy and further that the Policy be entered into the Township Policy Manual as Policy Number A-26 and takes effect immediately.

Financial Impact:

There will be a financial impact as a result of this proposed policy. At this time the costs cannot be estimated but they will include items such as additional PPE, enhanced cleaning practices, additional training for staff, modifications to work space. All of the costs that are directly related to the Covid-19 pandemic are being tracked with a special project code.

Strategic Plan Applicability:

To ensure and enable an effective and efficient municipal administration.

Sustainability Plan Applicability: N/A