
MEMORANDUM

PHD-C 4-2022

Subject: An Observational Study of Smoking and Vaping on Beaches
Date: June 14, 2022
To: Public Health and Social Services Committee
From: Gillian Chappell, Health Promoter, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention

Regional By-law

Regional By-law 112-2013, is a regional by-law to protect children and vulnerable persons from exposure to second-hand smoke and vapour. The by-law prohibits the use of tobacco, cannabis and vaping products from being smoked or vaped in public spaces in the Niagara region. Some of the locations include (but are not limited to) parks, playgrounds, recreation centres, nine metres from publically accessible entrances, and public beaches.

Observational Study

In an effort to understand smoking and vaping behaviours related to Regional By-law 112-2013, the Tobacco Control Program will be conducting an observational study on public beaches. Between July-August 2022, Public Health staff will be conducting one hour observations of smoking and vaping at specific public beaches owned or operated by a municipality. Additional information will be gathered, including presence of “no smoking” signage and butt litter.

It is important to note that observations will be conducted in a discrete and respectful manner and individuals who may be smoking or vaping will not be approached by the observation team. Observations will be taking place between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to account for peak times that children and families would most likely be present. Municipal staff will be engaged in this process and notified when observations will be taking place.

Similar studies have been conducted at Public Health to gather local data such as a road safety distracted driving audit. The results of this study will help inform future

program planning such as tailored educational efforts and enforcement practices. As a result, there may be increase adherence to the by-law, and reduced exposure to second-hand smoke and vapour and their health harms.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Gillian Chappell, BPH

Health Promoter, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention