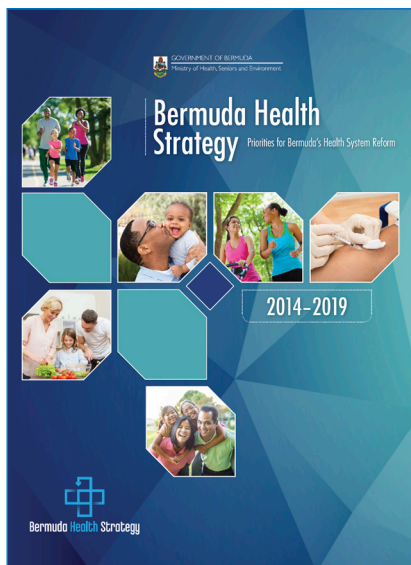




BERMUDA HEALTH STRATEGY REFRESH

The Ministry of Health is updating the strategic plan for health in Bermuda with the assistance of KPMG, a leader in the industry with invaluable global healthcare insight. KPMG will provide independent, local project management through a multi-sectoral Steering Committee and a broad cross-section of healthcare stakeholders as a Strategic Leadership Group. The refresh of the Bermuda Health Strategy will set the vision and goals for health for 2020 to 2025. It will build on the previous Government's strategy that outlined strategic reform priorities for Bermuda's health system and identified key goals grounded in the core principles for the



health sector: quality, equity and sustainability.

Stakeholder consultation will occur in the first quarter of 2020, as well as short surveys for healthcare stakeholders

and for the public. The surveys will be conducted and analysed by KPMG and will be launched on the forum.gov.bm website. The input and guidance received will set the direction of healthcare in Bermuda over the next 5 years.

View the current Bermuda Health Strategy 2014–2019 and Ministry of Health Roadmaps at: <https://www.gov.bm/reports>.

** Note: The Bermuda Health Strategy 2014–2019 is a broad strategy with 14 health system goals of which health financing reform (aka the Bermuda Health Plan) is goal 9.*

VACCINES WORK

In the same way we prepare and protect our homes ahead of a storm, we need to prepare for the flu season and protect our own lives and the lives of our loved ones.

It is not too late to get a flu shot. Historically, the high of the flu season has been in the early part of the year and everyone's help is needed to contain the risks of influenza by getting a flu shot and taking other preventive measures.

Influenza vaccination is a proven method to prevent the flu and its worst symptoms.

For many people, it can completely prevent influenza. But even when the vaccine does not prevent influenza completely, people who are vaccinated get less sick, have fewer complications and are less likely to need hospitalizing.

This year, the flu season is predicted to be worse than last year—worse even than 2017. The common strains of influenza detected in Bermuda have been the virulent H1N1 and H3N2 strains—both of which are protected from by the vaccine.

You can visit your own doctor for your flu shot or go to the Hamilton Health Centre.



STEPS SURVEY DATA

The STEPS survey team resumes interviews in January. The survey includes more than 2,000 randomly selected homes. If you are selected, take advantage of the opportunity for a free health screening. You will also help Bermuda update its population health data to inform future policy and programmes. To find out more visit www.gov.bm/steps-bermuda

MUMPS

The Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit continues to investigate cases of Mumps on island. Surveillance, testing and control have been heightened. Mumps is a vaccine-preventable, contagious disease that can be easily spread. Mumps typically starts with fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness, and loss of appetite, followed by swelling of salivary glands under the ears on one or both sides.

YEAR IN REVIEW

2019 was busy for the Ministry with work in all areas progressing steadily. Prevention led the way with initiatives like "Taking it to the Streets" health screenings, and the Flu Express drive-through. Measuring population health is vital, so the STEPS survey got underway. Regulatory enhancements included child care oversight and health professionals' registration. And the goal of universal health coverage through health financing reform continues. In 2020 refreshing the broader Bermuda Health Strategy will set our future vision for health.



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