VITAL SIGNS
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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.


* 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 height 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.

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.