

Peterborough Police Services Board - Board Report



Public Session

To: Chair and Members of the Peterborough Police Services Board
From: Scott Gilbert, Chief of Police
Report Date: August 8th, 2020
Meeting Date: August 18th, 2020
Subject: Use of First Responders COVID-19 Risk Lookup Portal

Purpose

To inform the Board of the Service's compliance with the Board's policy on Accessing and Managing COVID-19 Status Information.

Recommendation

That the Board approve the recommendation outlined in this report, as follows:

That the Board receive the report from Chief Gilbert

Strength Impact

N/A

Budget and Financial Implications

N/A

Background

On April 13th, 2020, the Ministry of the Solicitor General enacted Ontario Regulation 120/20 under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) which created the *First Responders COVID-19 Risk Look-up Portal* (the *Portal*). This web tool allowed designated police personnel persons access to a data base of people that had tested positive for Covid-19 in order to ensure the health and safety of First Responders.

As a result of this the Police Services Board (PSB) enacted a Board policy related to *Accessing and Managing COVID-19 Status Information* (see attached).

In the case of the Peterborough Police Service (PPS) the only persons designated and authorized to access the Portal were members of the Communications Unit (list attached).

The emergency order creating the portal was repealed on July 22nd, 2020.

At its meeting of July 28th, 2020, the Board directed the Chief to report back to it regarding compliance with its *Accessing and Managing COVID-19 Status Information* policy.

Summary

In response to the Board's policy on the COVID-19 look up portal direction was given to all members on the proper requirements for accessing COVID-19 status information.

A tracking sheet was also created to be filled out when the information was accessed and the reason(s) for accessing the information.

In addition, Communicators were also asking all callers to the Service standard COVID-19 screening questions which were entered into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) data base for the information of attending officers.

If a caller indicated they were awaiting the results of a test or had tested positive the *Portal* was queried to determine the COVID-19 status of the caller or involved parties before officers attended.

Examples of queries to the *Portal* include a deceased person who was believed to have tested positive prior to their death, a COVID-19 related custody dispute, and a caller who advised they were awaiting the results of a test.

According to information from the Ministry of the Solicitor General provided on August 7th, 2020, the *Portal* was accessed on twenty two (22) occasions by authorized members of the PPS communications staff between April 17th and July 20th, 2020 the time period for which they have records.

There is no indication any records were accessed improperly through the *Portal* at this time nor is there any indication any personal health information has been entered into CPIC or Intelligence databases.

A check of the CAD data base when compared to the dispatch tracking sheet showed two calls had entries made into them related to accessing the *Portal*. The following are the entries that were made:

“COVID PORTAL HAS NO TEST INFO BACK YET”

“SEARCH COVID WEB PORTAL NEGATIVE FOR (name deleted) OR ADDRESS”

The CAD database does not connect to CPIC or any Intelligence data bases so there is no risk of personnel health information from these calls being entered into them.

I have also been advised the CAD database cannot be altered so deleting the above records or including a default expiry date on them also cannot be done in order to correct them.

Prepared and Submitted by: Scott Gilbert, Chief of Police

Reviewed by: