



BERMUDA HEALTH PLAN CONSULTATION IS OPEN AND WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!



The Ministry is consulting on important health reforms. The ultimate goal is to ensure Bermuda can become healthier; these reforms focus on health coverage so residents can access healthcare. In order to improve the basic insurance coverage (the standard health benefit) and make sure everyone can afford it, we

have to change the way we pay for healthcare.

The purpose of this public consultation is to decide:

1. What the new basic insurance plan should include and cost (which will replace the Standard Health Benefit); and
2. What we need to do to transition to a unified health financing system (a Transition Road map).

In August the Government announced that after extensive consideration, it has determined to adopt a unified model of financing for the basic health insurance package in order to turn our expensive system into a leaner more efficient one. We have to decide as a country what should be included in the basic package

of essential services that everyone should have access to as well as decide what is affordable in terms of premium and co-pays. For discussion purposes, a 'mock' Bermuda Health Plan (BHP) has been drafted, aimed to include benefits to help people stay healthy, at a premium that is affordable to most people, and to cap co-payments to an affordable level.

We are also consulting on the development of a Transition Road map on how to convert our present standard health benefit system into a single payer system.

Find out more about the mock BHP and how to respond to the consultation at: www.gov.bm/healthplan

STEPS TO A WELL BERMUDA

We know 75% of our population is overweight or obese and a majority drink three sugary drinks a day. But we only know this thanks to the STEPS to a Well Bermuda 2014 Survey, completed by the Ministry of Health. Now it's time to update that survey. Starting in October, interviewers will be out in the community visiting homes conducting the survey. The STEPS to a Well Bermuda survey 2019



will update information about Bermuda's health and our risk factors for chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer and

chronic respiratory diseases. This is no small feat. More than 2,000 homes will have to be visited and thousands of questions answered, but the results will help direct policy decisions, budgetary allocations and direct health interventions. We have set-up a webpage to answer questions and we hope the Ministry team can lend support by informing persons of what, why and how STEPS will be completed.

HEALTHY AGEING STARTS NOW!

On Tuesday, 1st October 2019, the Department of Health will be Celebrating Wellness with a focus on Healthy Ageing. The event will be in Victoria Park, Hamilton from 2.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. with various vendors and activities to promote the important role of physical activity and health eating for a healthy lifestyle. Come-out and join-in the free, healthy activities!

HEALTH PRACTITIONERS TRIBUNAL CONSULTATION

The Ministry of Health is currently consulting on what a complaints handling system for health professionals should look like. The proposed tribunal would be an independent body that makes decisions around professional misconduct and fitness to practice. Review the proposal and submit your views here: <https://www.gov.bm/health-public-consultations>

WHOOPIING COUGH UPDATE

Two cases of Pertussis (whooping cough) have been reported in the last week to the Ministry of Health through the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (ESU). It is a highly infectious, respiratory disease. It can cause uncontrollable violent coughing which often makes it hard to breathe. ESU contacts person who may have been exposed and monitors their health to prevent illness spreading. There have been sporadic cases in Bermuda before, but these highlight the need for vaccination as well as good hand hygiene and staying home when unwell with respiratory symptoms. For more information visit: <https://www.gov.bm/health-data-and-monitoring>



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441-278-4900



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gov.bm/ministry/health



P.O. Box HM 380,
Hamilton HM BX



Continental Building,
25 Church Street
Hamilton, HM 12