



BERMUDA HEALTH STRATEGY 2014-2019

Ensuring Bermuda's health system meets the needs of residents is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health. To deliver on this, the Bermuda Health Strategy 2014-19 outlines the three core values and 14 goals to reform the island's health system. It is based on the National Health Plan 2011 and has the mission

to provide affordable and sustainable healthcare for all Bermuda's residents. Minister Wilson is committed to this mission and has been meeting with stakeholders to ensure they are aware of progress to date and priorities coming up. Some of the highlights of the work completed so far include: experimenting with different pay models for providers, publishing

Senior Abuse policies and procedures, creating an online directory of helping services, and developing a palliative care benefit.

Updates on and information about the work completed on the 14 goals of the Strategy, can be found on the government website at: <https://www.gov.bm/bermuda-health-strategy-2014-2019>

SUGAR TAX

On Friday 8th June the House of Assembly passed legislation establishing the first phase of Bermuda's Sugar Tax. The Customs Tariff Amendment (No 2) Bill 2018 ushered in the increase of import duty on sugary drinks (e.g. sodas, energy drinks), drink powders and dilutables (e.g. powdered drinks, syrups for drinks), pure sugar, and

candies. The customs duty will be applied upon arrival in Bermuda whether commercial or personal items. The new duty rates will be phased in, starting at 50% in October 2018 and 75% in April 2019. This is just one of the various initiatives the Ministry is implementing to tackling obesity and unhealthy lifestyles. To understand the tax visit: <https://www.gov.bm/articles/sugar-tax>



REGULATORY PIPELINE

The Code of Practice for Care Homes will be published in June 2018 on the Ageing and Disability Services webpage. The Code of Practice sets the minimum requirements for the operation of care homes registered under the Residential Care Homes and Nursing Homes Act 1999 and Regulations 2001. The Ministry of Health is also preparing to introduce Regulations for the following professions later in 2018: acupuncturists, massage therapists, social workers, chiropractors, counselors.

TRAVEL ADVISORY - MEASLES

Fifteen European countries, including the UK, Italy, France and Greece experienced measles outbreaks in 2017, affecting more than 21,000 people. In the Americas 11 countries had confirmed cases including Canada and USA. Measles is extremely serious, especially in children under the age of 5. Measles can cause health problems including pneumonia, blindness, and inflammation of the brain. Before travelling ensure vaccinations are updated. Check-out: <https://www.gov.bm/immunization-schedules-children-and-adults>

SUMMER CAMP SAFETY

Summer is quickly approaching as are the days when schools are closed and parents look for camps for their children. Ensure the camp you chose is safe, and your child will be engaged and active. Environmental Health asks that all camps register with them, and have produced guidelines to help parents find the right camp. Find-out more here: <https://www.gov.bm/child-care-information-parents>



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