Council Direction:
Not Applicable.

Information:
This report is issued in accordance with the Purchasing Policy. The Purchasing Policy requires “the General Manager of the client department shall issue an information report to the City Manager and to Council at its next scheduled meeting for purchases of $250,000 or greater, in addition to completing the Request for Use of Negotiation Policy/Emergency Reporting form” as detailed in Item (3) of Section 5.10 – Emergency Purchasing (Policy #10). This report fulfils that reporting requirement.

Hamilton experienced widespread H1N1 influenza in the community, with ninety school based outbreaks as well as outbreaks in daycares, the St Joseph’s Hospital Emergency Department, and long-term care homes. In response, the Board of Health approved report BOH09028 with respect to Fall Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Preparedness directing staff to implement the outsource model for H1N1 immunization clinics for 2009/2010. This involved redeployment of staff and hiring external staff agencies.

During the pandemic, there was one purchase order (PO 51114 – Platinum Care) issued relating to H1N1 where Policy 10 for Emergency Purchases was used, totalling $400,000 for hiring of external agencies to assist in staffing of H1N1 immunization clinics.

Costs related to the clinics were minimized through matching clinic staffing to patient demand, sharing responsibility for H1N1 vaccinations with other providers and resuming
regular public health vaccination clinics where H1N1 vaccines could be obtained. As well, 100% provincial funding was maximized as much as provincial policy would allow.