

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Providing Leadership in
Public Health Management

alPHa

Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

www.alphaweb.org

KEEPING ONTARIANS HEALTHY AND SAFE

WINTER 2025

Public health is essential for a healthy, thriving society, enabling individuals to live and work in optimal health. Investment in local public health enables healthy communities, which are foundational to a strong, vibrant, and economically prosperous Ontario. Public health promotes and protects communities and ensures everyone has a safe place to live, learn, work, and play.

OUR ASK

Local public health supports the Ontario government in its goals to be efficient, effective, and provide value for money.

We are asking decision-makers for their support for the goals and objectives of public health, with sustained and sufficient resources to ensure stability for Ontario's locally-based network of public health agencies.



DISEASE PREVENTION

Public health focuses on disease prevention through immunization and case management, to protect the entire community.

- 804,000+ doses of human papillomavirus, meningococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines administered (2023).
- 4,988,000+ doses of influenza vaccines distributed to public health units (PHUs) and pharmacies (2023/24 respiratory season).
- 2,349,500+ doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered (2023/24 respiratory season).
- An estimated 73% of long-term care home residents received an RSV vaccine (2023/24 respiratory season).
- Track diseases of public health significance, such as measles and pertussis, to strategically respond to rises in threats.



HEALTH PROTECTION

Public health helps to ensure the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the places we gather are safe.

- 39,200+ moderate and high risk food premises inspected (2023).
- 7,000+ pools and spa facilities inspected (2023).
- 2,000+ risk assessments completed for small drinking water systems (2024).
- 44,000+ total tobacco inspections completed, helping to limit youth access to cigarettes while protecting communities from the impacts of second-hand smoke (2023).
- 91% of confirmed syphilis cases where treatment and follow-up were completed (2023).
- 85 active tuberculosis cases investigated by PHUs (2023).



Population
Health
Assessment



Health
Equity



Effective Public
Health Practice



Emergency
Management



Chronic Disease
Prevention and
Well-Being



Food
Safety



Healthy
Environments



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Public health encourages healthy lifestyles and reduces health inequities by providing health support to the most vulnerable in the community.

- 510,000+ enrolled clients in *Healthy Smiles Ontario* (Apr. 2023-Mar. 2024).
- 115,650+ enrolled clients in the *Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program* (Apr. 2023-Mar. 2024).
- 97,900+ postpartum *Healthy Babies Healthy Children* screens completed (Apr. 2023-Mar. 2024).
- 8,780+ families received at least two home visits as interventions through *Healthy Babies Healthy Children* (Apr. 2023-Mar. 2024).



OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

Track the spread, educate the public, support institutions to manage outbreaks, and coordinate with the healthcare system to minimize institutional and community risk.

- 3,000+ services delivered by Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hubs each month (2023).
- 1,250+ IPAC complaints investigated (2023).
- 5,350+ respiratory outbreaks supported (2024).
- Track diseases of public health significance, such as measles and pertussis, to strategically respond.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Public health ensures continuity and resilience of the healthcare system during disruptions and emergencies that may put the health of Ontarians at risk.

- Continued preparedness for future public health surge responses for infectious disease and environmental health risks, including supporting the healthcare system with preparedness and response for suspect high-risk pathogen cases.
- Support municipalities and First Nations communities with planning, preparedness, response, and recovery for municipal emergencies, such as extreme weather events (e.g. heat or cold, forest fire smoke or air quality incidents, and floods).



Healthy
Growth and
Development



Immunization



Infectious and
Communicable Diseases
Prevention and Control



Oral
Health



Safe
Water



School
Health



Substance Use
and Injury
Prevention