The Health Protection and Promotion Act:

- Is a provincial statute that gives boards of health their legal mandate and is the most important piece of legislation for boards of health.
- Provides for the organization and delivery of public health programs and services, the prevention of the spread of disease, and the promotion and protection of the health of the people of Ontario.
- Prescribes the existence, structures, governance and functions of boards of health, as well as the activities of medical officers of health and certain public health functions of the Minister.
- Empowers the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to publish guidelines for the provision of mandatory programs and services. These are the Ontario Public Health Standards, which came into effect on January 1, 2018.
- Provides the legal authority to establish boards of health and specifies that there must be a board of health for each health unit.

- Includes 19 regulations that govern board of health composition, qualifications of staff, food safety, swimming pool health and safety, school health, and communicable disease control.
- Is organized into the following 9 parts:
  1. Interpretation
  2. Health Programs and Services
  3. Community Health Protection
  4. Communicable Diseases
  5. Rights of Entry and Appeals from Orders
  6. Health Units and Boards of Health
  7. Administration
  8. Regulations
  9. Enforcement