



Public Health:

- Is the science and art of protecting and improving the health and well-being of people in local communities and across the country.
- Focuses on the health of the entire population, or on those parts of the community that may be at some level of health risk, rather than on the individual person.
- Uses strategies to protect and promote health, and prevent disease and injury in the population.
- Works with members of communities and community agencies to ensure long-term health for all.
- Services can reduce the need for other health care services and have the potential to limit the consequences of poor health by addressing the determinants of health and reducing risks to the population.
- Protects health by controlling infectious diseases through regulatory inspections and enforcement, and by preventing or reducing exposure to environmental hazards.
- Promotes health by educating the public on healthy lifestyles, working with community partners and advocating for public policy that promotes a healthy population.
- Prevents disease and injury by the surveillance of outbreaks, screening for cancer, immunization to control infectious disease, and conducting research on injury prevention.
- Providers include physicians, nurses, inspectors, dietitians, dental staff, health promoters and epidemiologists.
- Practitioners work collaboratively with other partners and sectors.
- Programs and services are delivered in Ontario communities by 35 local health units.



The information contained in this fact sheet originates from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies' **2018 Orientation Manual for Board of Health Members**.

Alternate formats of this document are available upon request.