Public Health:

- is about 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 improve 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 risk factors or the determinants of health.
- protects health by controlling infectious diseases through case, contact and outbreak management; regulatory inspections and enforcement; and by preventing or reducing exposure to environmental hazards.
- promotes health by educating the public on healthy lifestyles, and working with municipal, community, educational and other partners to help inform policies that promote healthier environments.
- prevents disease by the monitoring of infectious disease trends, immunizations to prevent vaccine preventable diseases and case, contact and outbreak management.
- providers include physicians, nurses, inspectors, dietitians, dental staff, health promoters and research analysts and epidemiologists.
- practitioners work collaboratively with other partners and sectors.
- programs and services are delivered in Ontario communities by 34 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.