



## 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.