

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Providing Leadership in
Public Health Management

alPHa

Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

www.alphaweb.org


A PUBLIC HEALTH PRIMER

SPRING 2022

Public health champions health for all. Local public health agencies provide programs and services that promote well-being, prevent disease and injury, and protect population health. Our work, often done in collaboration with local partners and within the broader public health system, results in a healthier population and avoids drawing on costly and scarce health care resources.

OUR ASK

That decision makers acknowledge that local public health has been the backbone of Ontario's successful response to the pandemic and remains essential to the province's health and economic recovery, which will require sustained and sufficient resources and a stable structure embedded in local communities.

 **7,139,930**
INDIVIDUALS VACCINATED
WITH 3 DOSES IN ONTARIO
AS OF MARCH 22, 2022
Source: [Government of Ontario](https://www.ontario.ca/government)

1,140,865
CONFIRMED COVID-19
CASES IN ONTARIO
AS OF MARCH 21, 2022
Source: [Public Health Ontario](https://publichealthontario.ca)



PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

Ontario's 34 local public health agencies are the front line of the COVID-19 response.

Public health professionals are responsible for the following:

CASE AND CONTACT MANAGEMENT:

Identify and isolate cases.

DATA ANALYSIS:

Identify sources of infection and patterns of transmission.

OUTBREAK CONTROL:

Protect vulnerable populations in higher risk settings.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES:

Implement and enforce measures to slow the spread of COVID-19.

ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT:

Provide expert input to inform government actions in the fight against COVID-19.

ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC:

Provide and reinforce expert advice to empower the public in the fight against COVID-19.

VACCINATION EFFORTS:

Lead the distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines in all Ontario communities.



Population
Health
Assessment



Health
Equity



Effective Public
Health Practice



Emergency
Management



Chronic Disease
Prevention and
Well-Being



Food
Safety



Healthy
Environments

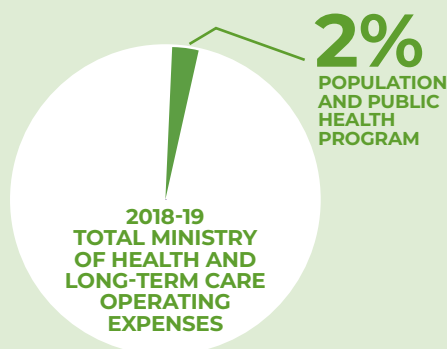
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RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Investments in public health generate significant returns, including better health, lower health care costs, and a stronger economy.

According to the 2018-19 (former) Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Expenditure Estimates, the operating estimate for the entire Population and Public Health Program (which includes internal Ministry expenses, funding for Public Health Ontario and the local grants) was **\$1.267 billion**, or about **2%** of the total Ministry operating expenses.

This demonstrates a tremendous return on investment given the significant benefit to the health of the people of Ontario.



IMPACT ON RESOURCES



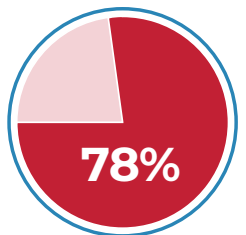
The COVID-19 response **pre-empted most activities** mandated by the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Suspension of routine public health programs and services is our equivalent of the health care system's "surgical backlog." We must resume these while we maintain an effective COVID-19 response.



The COVID-19 pandemic magnified existing **health inequities**. This will put additional demands on Public Health resources to address them in the future.

Each of Ontario's 34 local public health agencies had to **divert on average 78%** of all available resources to the COVID-19 response.



A measurable uptick in **substance use** (e.g., alcohol and opioids), **mental health issues**, and factors that contribute to chronic diseases will put further demands on public health resources in the future.

Source: alPHa Report: [Public Health Resilience in Ontario - Executive Summary](#)

Source: alPHa Report: [Public Health Resilience in Ontario - Report](#)

Please visit: www.alphaweb.org



Healthy
Growth and
Development



Immunization



Infectious and
Communicable Diseases
Prevention and Control



Oral
Health



Safe
Water



School
Health



Substance Use
and Injury
Prevention