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**April 18, 2024**

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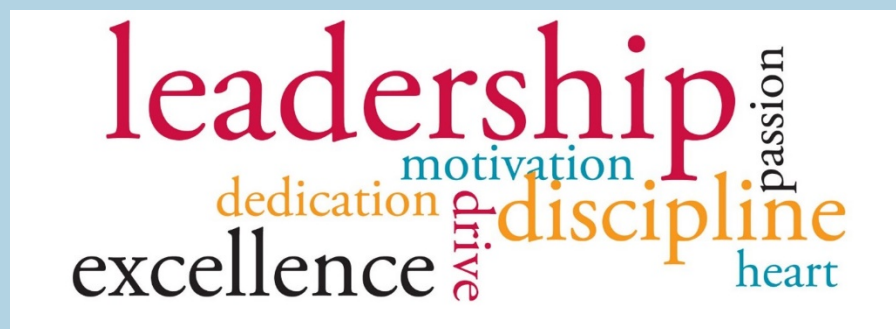
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## **April 2024 InfoBreak**

*This update is a tool to keep alPHa's members apprised of the latest news in public health including provincial announcements, legislation, alPHa activities, correspondence, and events. Visit us at [alphaweb.org](http://alphaweb.org).*

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### **Leader to Leader - A Message from alPHa's President - April 2024**



Hello and greetings to all.

As always, I am inspired by the great importance of our mandate in local public health, protecting and promoting health, and preventing disease and injury in the populations we serve throughout the province. I am also grateful for the tremendous dedication and professionalism of the governance, management and staff of our local public health agencies, critical to the achievement of our very challenging mandate.

The advancement of our work, and the sharing of knowledge and understanding to this end were evident at the Ontario Public Health Convention ([TOPHC](#)) 2024 that was held in-person as a workshop on March 26 and online on April 3. With alPHa as a partner agency for TOPHC, I was privileged to provide welcoming words on March 26, and I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet in person with many working in local public health. It was very good to see alPHa Executive Director, Loretta Ryan, leading an ice-breaking session on March 26. Also in attendance were alPHa Board members, Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang (COMOH Section chair and alPHa Executive Committee member), who moderated the April 3 session on Strengthening Public Health Systems, and Dr. Vera Etches (COMOH Executive member) who moderated *Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence for Public Health*. There was a wide range of subjects covered in both days, all of great importance reflecting our very broad public health mandate.

Of note in alPHa's [Strategic Plan](#) is "advancing the work of local public health through strategic partnerships and collaborations". Certainly, this includes working with Public Health Ontario and its highly valued TOPHC. Likewise, the work of [Public Health Ontario](#) "advancing public health and health workforce capacity and knowledge to improve population health outcomes" is essential and was well reflected in TOPHC 2024.

The advancement of the work of local public health through strategic partnerships is also reflected in the ongoing engagement of alPHa Executive Committee members with agencies, such as with the executive leadership of the Ontario Medical Association and its Public Health Section. This took place most recently on March 11, allowing us to share with the OMA's new President and CEO, [Kimberly Moran](#), the importance of local public health within a thriving and effective health care system.

The critical nature of the full mandate of local public health is very well reflected within the content of the [2023 annual report to the legislature of the Chief Medical Officer of Health](#), which was released on March 29. Entitled *Balancing Act: An All-of-Society Approach to Substance Use and Harms*, this report identifies the health, economic and broader societal impacts of tobacco/vaping products, cannabis, alcohol and opioids. It also provides a comprehensive approach and set of recommendations for the reduction of harms associated with these substances. In its creation, it drew from the work and contributions local public health units developed over many years. Included is an acknowledgment of the members of the Ministry of Health's external advisory committee that included Dr. Kit Young-Hoon and Dr. Lisa Simon as local public health representatives. This report is now a very important resource, and I believe has great relevance as we continue with the review of the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) as part of the provincial *Strengthening Public Health* initiative. As alPHa's president, I have [written in response](#), identifying the ways in which alPHa's resolutions align with the contents of the report.

As we progress in our work pursuing our full public health mandate, it is important we also pursue good health for ourselves and those we work with. To this end, alPHA continues to promote [Workplace Health and Wellness Month](#) for the month of May. I do encourage all to take advantage of this information and to pursue measures to improve our own health and well-being.

I look forward to the [alPHA Annual General Meeting and Conference](#) on June 5-7, being held in-person in Toronto, and I do encourage local public health leaders throughout the province to join us for these events. One of the key outcomes for this meeting will be the approval, by the member representatives, of alPHA's new bylaw, drafted over the past 19 months, replacing alPHA's constitution. This will enable compliance with the requirements of the Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act (ONCA). The draft bylaw will be included with the other proposed Resolutions, as part of the AGM package, which will be released by May 6. I look forward to meeting in-person with all as we complete the key tasks taking place during the conference.

We continue with our work in local public health, including holding our own against the potential spread of measles with travel-related cases. So far, we have managed to contain this with much work for local public health and the broader health care system, also due to the years of work of local public health and primary care providing childhood immunization. To fully address this challenge and reduce the vulnerability of our communities to vaccine preventable diseases we have before us the task of completing vaccination catch-up as part of the COVID-19 post-acute phase recovery of all our local public health programs. As we pursue our strategic plans, system change, health unit mergers and the review of the OPHS, current population health challenges of this nature tangibly demonstrate the critical importance of local public health.

*Dr. Charles Gardner*  
*alPHA President*

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**Registration for alPHA's 2024 AGM & Conference and preliminary program are now available!**

## 2024 AGM & Conference

Toronto, Ontario, June 5-7, 2024



Continue the important conversations on Ontario's local public health system's critical role, value, and benefit.

**Pantages Hotel**  
**Members-only event**  
**Tickets: \$675 + HST**

- **Participate in plenary sessions with public health leaders at the conference**
- **BOH and COMOH Section meetings**
- **Annual General Meeting**

*Please note that you must be an ALPHA member to participate in the AGM & Conference. Stay tuned for updates on the ALPHA website [www.alphaweb.org](http://www.alphaweb.org).*

Registration is now open for this year's [Annual General Meeting \(AGM\) and Conference](#). This in-person event is taking place June 5-7 in Toronto at the Pantages Hotel. It is a chance to gather and discuss issues of key importance to public health leaders. You won't want to miss out!

Highlights include:

- Walking Tour Featuring Toronto Public Health Heritage Plaques.
- Opening Reception where you can join colleagues, old and new, at a unique venue overlooking Massey Hall.
- [Medicine Bag Workshop](#) facilitated by Marc Forgette, a noted Indigenous speaker, who works with organizations from across Canada.
- Remarks from the Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Doug Ford.
- Presentation by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health on his 2023 Annual Report.
- Combined ALPHA Business Meeting and Resolutions Session.
- Distinguished Service Awards and Board Recognition.

- Session on proposed voluntary mergers.
- Update from OCMOH staff on the province's Strengthening Public Health initiative.
- Two Years In and Two Years Out – What's in Store at Queen's Park from Sabine Matheson, Principal, StrategyCorp, and John Perenack, Principal, StrategyCorp. Please send any advance questions for these speakers to [communications@alphaweb.org](mailto:communications@alphaweb.org) by May 24, 2024.
- BOH Section and COMOH Section Meetings. The BOH Section Meeting includes updates from the Affiliates and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. There will also be sessions on Hamilton's proposed Board of Health Structure, Board of Health Governance, and BOH Section Elections.

The [Conference Program](#) and the [BOH Section Meeting agenda](#) are on the conference webpage. The [June 2024 alPHa AGM Notice and Package](#), [Conference poster](#), and [Sponsorship information](#) are also available. Updates are featured in *Information Break*, alPHa's monthly newsletter, and posted regularly on the website, so check it often.

Other important documents and deadlines include:

- [Call for 2024 alPHa Resolutions](#) (the deadline to submit Resolutions that do not require changes to alPHa's Constitution is April 22, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.)
- [Call for Board of Health Nominations](#) (the deadline to submit nominations is May 31, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.)

Attendees are encouraged to book their accommodations as soon as possible. You can either book through the Pantages Hotel or at one of the nearby hotels. A list of accommodations is on the website.

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Mosey & Mosey



We would like to thank our sponsors, Toronto Public Health, Mosey & Mosey, and Brokerlink for their generous event support. It would not be possible without them!

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The deadline for ALPHA members to submit Resolutions that do not request amendments to ALPHA's Constitution is 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2024.

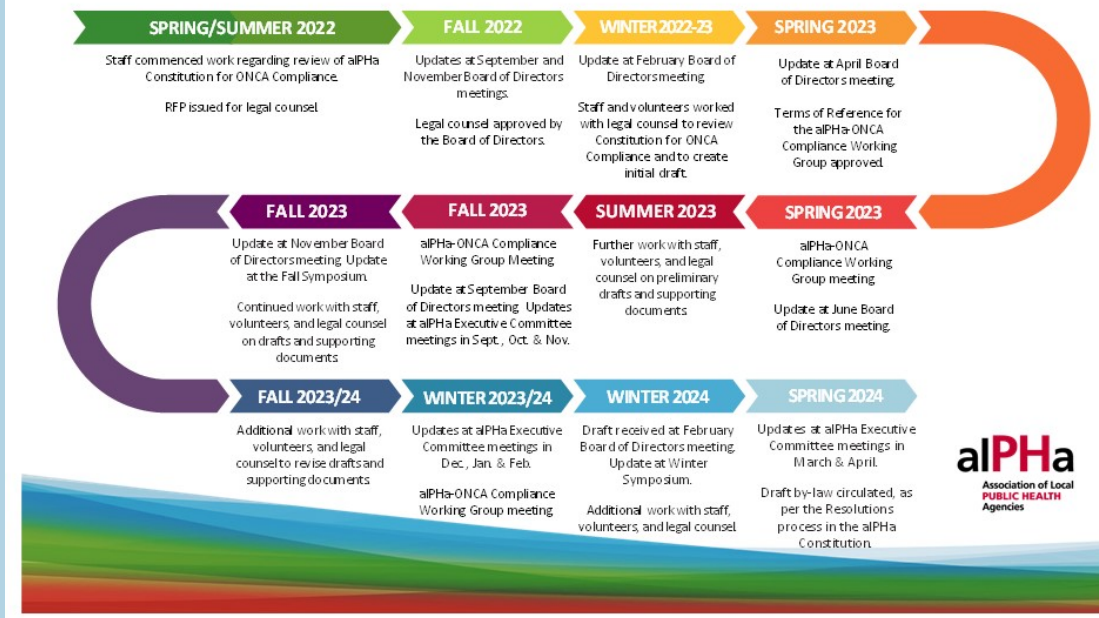
Please note that it is important that Resolutions are drafted using the "Procedural Guidelines for ALPHA Resolutions" found by [clicking here](#). Members are also encouraged to visit ALPHA's [extensive library](#) of past Resolutions to ensure consistency with or to build upon existing positions where appropriate.

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**Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)**

# alPHA ONCA Compliance Activities

2022 to 2024



Ontario's [Not-for-Profit Corporations Act \(ONCA\)](#) is a significant legislative update that replaced Ontario's Corporations Act on October 19, 2021 regarding not-for-profit corporations, including alPHA. The ONCA was introduced to enhance the legal framework governing not-for-profit organizations in the province of Ontario. It provides a comprehensive set of regulations tailored to meet the unique needs of non-profit corporations while promoting transparency, accountability, effective governance and to ensure due diligence.

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) has until October 18, 2024, to review, update, and file governing documents with the Ontario government or ONCA provisions will prevail. Until then, the rules in alPHA's articles and Constitution continue to be valid.

## Why the changes and what are the changes?

The main objectives of introducing the ONCA were as follows:

**Enhanced Governance:** The outdated Act did not provide comprehensive guidelines for effective governance, leading to potential issues with accountability and transparency. ONCA aims to strengthen the governance structures of not-for-profit corporations. It



introduces clearer guidelines for Boards of Directors, Members, and Officers, enabling organizations to operate more efficiently and effectively.

**Improved Accountability:** The Act places a strong emphasis on financial accountability, requiring not-for-profit corporations to maintain accurate records, prepare financial statements, and undergo regular audits.

**Improved Flexibility:** The inflexibility of the previous legislation hindered the ability of not-for-profit corporations to adapt to changing circumstances and needs. ONCA streamlines the incorporation process and provides more flexibility in organizational structure. It allows for the customization of certain provisions, tailoring them to the specific needs and missions of individual organizations.

**Enhanced Member Rights:** The Act enhances the rights and protections of members of not-for-profit corporations, ensuring greater participation and representation in the decision-making processes.

**Modernization and Legislative Gaps:** The Ontario Corporations Act, which had been in place for decades, was outdated and unable to address the evolving needs and complexities of not-for-profit organizations. ONCA was designed to offer a modernized regulatory framework, aligning with current legal landscape and best practices. The ONCA provisions address modern challenges such as electronic communications, online governance, and virtual meetings.

**Harmonization with Federal Laws:** The ONCA aligns provincial regulations with the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (CNCA).

Existing nonprofits are not required to pass new By-laws. However, alPHa has received legal advice to change to a By-law from the current Constitution of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (Ontario). If alPHa does not ensure development of a By-law that aligns with, and reflects the applicable ONCA rules, the rules set out in the ONCA will prevail over alPHa's current Constitution.

Many organizations, such as the Ontario Municipal Association and others, have passed their new by-laws to come into compliance with ONCA.

### **How do these changes impact alPHa and its members?**

The ONCA represents a pivotal step forward in enhancing the governance, due diligence, accountability, and overall operations of alPHa as a not-for-profit organization in Ontario.

On legal advice, this By-law was targeted to address the ONCA legal compliance. Within the new By-law, the Constitution of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (Ontario) and its objectives remain valid and have not changed substantively. The Constitution has been customized and tailored into a By-law that aligns with, and follows the ONCA rules, and supports alPHa's letters of patent and alPHa's annual requirements updating the Ontario Business Registry. This By-law is a legal necessity to allow for alPHa's unique organizational structure to remain legislatively compliant.

alPHa staff, volunteers and legal counsel have worked tirelessly on this for the better part of two years. alPHa would like to sincerely thank them for their work.

Proposed changes will come forward in a Resolution at the AGM in June for the membership to pass.

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### **Updated *Ontario Public Health Directory* now available**



The latest version of the [Ontario Public Health Directory](#) is now available on the alPHa website. Please ensure you have the latest version, which has been dated as of April 10, 2024. You will have to log into the alPHa website to view the file.

We would also like to thank all of the EAs/AAs for sending in their updates. It is greatly appreciated!

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## Boards of Health: Shared Resources



A resource [page](#) is available on alPHa's website for Board of Health members to facilitate the sharing of and access to information, orientation materials, best practices, case studies, by-laws, Resolutions, and other resources. **In particular, alPHa is seeking resources to share regarding the province's Strengthening Public Health Initiative, including but not limited to, voluntary mergers and the need for long-term funding for local public health.** If you have a best practice, by-law or any other resource that you would like to make available via the newsletter and/or the website, please send a file or a link with a brief description to [gordon@alphaweb.org](mailto:gordon@alphaweb.org) and for posting in the appropriate library.

Resources available on the alPHa website include:

- [Orientation Manual for Boards of Health](#) (Revised Jan. 2024)
- [Review of Board of Health Liability, 2018](#), (PowerPoint presentation, Feb. 24, 2023)
- [Legal Matters: Updates for Boards of Health](#) (Video, June 8, 2021)
- [Obligations of a Board of Health under the Municipal Act, 2001](#) (Revised 2021)
- [Governance Toolkit](#) (Revised 2022)
- [Risk Management for Health Units](#)
- [Healthy Rural Communities Toolkit](#)
- [The Ontario Public Health Standards](#)
- [Public Appointee Role and Governance Overview](#) (for Provincial Appointees to BOH)
- [Ontario Boards of Health by Region](#)
- [List of Units sorted by Municipality](#)
- [List of Municipalities sorted by Health Unit](#)
- [Map: Boards of Health Types](#)
- [NCCHPP Report: Profile of Ontario's Public Health System](#) (2021)

- [The Municipal Role of Public Health\(2022 U of T Report\)](#)
  - [Boards of Health and Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act](#)
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**ICYMI: aPHa's Workplace Health & Wellness Month is fast approaching!**



## **aPHa Workplace Health & Wellness**

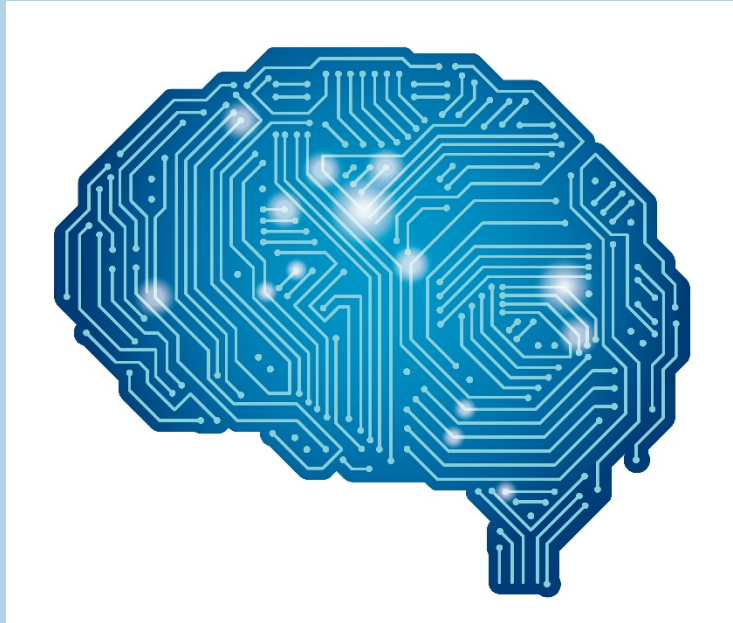


Are you ready to move? Workplace Health and Wellness Month is fast approaching, but there's still time to plan your physical and mental activities for May! We want to encourage all aPHa members to start thinking about what you can do to participate. To view this year's Workplace Health & Wellness Month poster, please click [here](#).

Additionally, you can head to our website to read [more of our infographics](#) to help you improve your health and wellness. Please note, we have substantially added to these resources over the past year and want to thank everyone for their feedback.

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**Spotlight on Advancing Public Health Education: The AMS-Fitzgerald Fellowship in AI & Human-Centred Leadership**



The University of Toronto's Joint Centre for Bioethics is now accepting applications for the AMS Healthcare Fitzgerald Fellowship in AI and Human-Centred Leadership. This prestigious fellowship offers an opportunity for mid-career professionals to engage in a two-year program of study. Fellows will have the chance to collaborate with esteemed scholars, participate in interdisciplinary research projects, and contribute to the development of AI in public health and healthcare. The AMS-Fitzgerald Fellowship provides learners with dedicated process facilitation and tangible expert support as they work to design, develop and implement a human-centred AI or digital transformation project for their unique health sector organization. Details about the fellowship, eligibility criteria, and application instructions are available at [University of Toronto's AMS Fitzgerald Fellowship in Bioethics page](#). The deadline for applications is May 10, 2024.

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**Public Health Early Years (PHEY) Group update**



Since December 2023, the Public Health Early Years (PHEY) group, now co-chaired by Rina Lamba (York Region) and Allison Chris (TPH), has been meeting monthly. Their goal is to use evidence to shape public health's role in early childhood development. Members include representatives from local public health units, provincial ministries, Public Health Ontario, and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies.

Key discussions, within the context of Child Health, include improving data mobilization, defining population health from a public health perspective, and enhancing evidence-based practices.

For more details, contact [Rina.Lamba@york.ca](mailto:Rina.Lamba@york.ca) or [Allison.Chris@toronto.ca](mailto:Allison.Chris@toronto.ca)

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**Calling all Ontario Boards of Health: Level up your expertise with our NEW training courses designed just for you!**



Don't miss this unique opportunity to enhance your knowledge and strengthen local public health leadership in Ontario.

**BOH Governance training course**

Master public health governance and Ontario's Public Health Standards. You'll learn all about public health legislation, funding, accountability, roles, structures, and much more. Gain insights into leadership and services that drive excellence in your unit.

**Social Determinants of Health training course**

Explore the impact of Social Determinants of Health on public health and municipal governments. Understand the context, explore Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, and examine various SDOH diagrams to better serve your communities.

Speakers are Monika Turner and Loretta Ryan.

Reserve your spot for in-person or virtual training now! Visit [our website](#) to learn more about the costs for Public Health Units (PHUs). Let's shape a healthier future together.

Additionally, thank you to all the public health agencies who have shown interest in our BOH courses. alPHa staff are currently coordinating the bookings and are pleased to see the uptake.

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**BrokerLink Insurance**



In partnership with alPHa, [BrokerLink](#) is proud to offer preferred home and auto insurance rates for [members](#). At BrokerLink, we care about you and your furry friends. We've put together some tips to ensure your pets are safe and living their best life [here](#).

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**alPHa Correspondence**



Through policy analysis, collaboration, and advocacy, aPHa's members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention, and surveillance services in all of Ontario's communities. A complete online library of submissions is available [here](#). These documents are publicly available and can be shared widely.

- [aPHa Letter - CMOH Annual Report 2023](#)
- [aPHa Letter - Student Nutrition](#)

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## Public Health Ontario



### Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool

We have made some enhancements to the [Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool \(ORVT\)](#). The tool now includes new COVID-19, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) outcomes data including:

- COVID-19 hospital bed occupancy data for people being treated primarily for COVID-19 (due to infection).
- Influenza hospital bed occupancy data for all people in hospital testing positive (total), as well as people being treated primarily for COVID-19 (due to infection).



- RSV hospital bed occupancy for all people in hospital testing positive for RSV (total).

All bed occupancy (total and due to infection) data can be filtered by public health unit. All total bed occupancy data can also be filtered by age group.

### **Immunization Coverage Report for School Pupils in Ontario: 2019-20 to 2022-23 School Years**

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a large decline in immunization coverage for Ontario's routine infant and childhood immunization programs and school-based immunization programs between 2019-20 and 2021-22. Subsequently, notable increases in coverage for school-based programs were observed in 2021-22 and 2022-23, but estimates remained lower than prior to the pandemic. Our [new report](#) describes immunization coverage for Ontario's publicly-funded routine childhood immunization programs, and is a continuation in a series of reports that aim to support program recovery for the pandemic-affected school years, and provides new estimates for the 2022-23 school year. In addition, the impact of catch-up activities and delayed reporting of immunizations is examined by extending the period of assessment by up to three years.

### **Additional Resources**

- [Management of Rabies Post-exposure Prophylaxis and Assessment of Vaccine Series Initiated Outside of Canada](#)
- [IPAC Checklist for Clinical Office Practice Core Elements](#)
- Epidemiological Summaries:
- [Mpox in Ontario](#)
- [Measles in Ontario](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Surveillance in Ontario](#)
- [Integrated Respiratory Virus Risk Indicators for Ontario](#): Note: This is the final report for the 2023-24 respiratory season. Publishing of these data will resume next season. For summary information on COVID-19, influenza, RSV and other seasonal respiratory viruses, please visit the [Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool](#).

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### **Upcoming DLSPH Events and Webinars**

**Dalla Lana**  
School of Public Health

- [Statistical Sciences Applied Research and Education Seminar \(ARES\) with Marie-Pier Côté](#) (Apr. 22)
  - [Critical Hope as a framework in Global Health](#) (Apr. 25)
  - [CQ Seminar - Hegemonic masculinity in focus groups on men's health](#) (Apr. 26)
  - [Statistical Sciences Applied Research and Education Seminar \(ARES\) with Larissa Stanberry](#) (Apr. 29)
  - [2SLGBTQ+ Health Hub Lecture | MindMapBC: Mapping Two-Spirit, trans, and queer affirming mental health supports in BC](#) (May 2)
  - [STAGE International Speaker Seminar Series \(ISSS\) with Dr. Li Hsu](#) (May 3)
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## alpha's mailing address



**Please note our mailing address is:  
PO Box 73510, RPO Wychwood  
Toronto, ON M6C 4A7**

Please update your records accordingly for correspondence, payments, and other remittances. Our telephone number and e-mail addresses remain the same.

Additionally, if your health unit has not yet moved to credit card or electronic fund transfers (EFTs) for payment, alpha requests that you do so.

For further information, please contact [info@alphaweb.org](mailto:info@alphaweb.org).

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## News Releases

The most up to date news releases from the Government of Ontario can be accessed [here](#).

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Our mailing address is:  
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Canada

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