



Board of Health Orientation

Presentation to Health and
Emergency Medical Services
Committee

Joanne Mitchell
Dr. Karim Kurji
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The *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA) governs boards of health in Ontario



- ❑ The HPPA is the principal legislation that governs public health in Ontario
- ❑ The Act and its twenty Regulations deal with regulatory matters as they pertain to public health

The HPPA includes important information about boards of health

- ❑ The definition of a board of health
- ❑ The role and mandate of a board of health
- ❑ The role and duties of a medical officer of health



A board of health is a governing body that governs an area of jurisdiction – “the health unit”



- ❑ The HPPA requires that every health unit have a board of health
- ❑ Members for boards of health in Ontario may be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council
- ❑ However, for regions, such as, York, Waterloo, Durham, Niagara, Halton, Peel and the County of Oxford, the board of health is comprised of its municipal councillors and provincial appointment is not necessary

The statutory mandate of boards of health



- ❑ In accordance with the HPPA, every board of health must ensure the provision of the health programs and services required under the Act to residents of the health unit
- ❑ The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care publishes guidelines for the provision of mandatory health programs and services
- ❑ Under certain circumstances, the Chief Medical Officer of Health can assume powers of the board of health

The role of the Medical Officer of Health is set out in the HPPA



- ❑ The Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the management of public health programs and services
- ❑ The Medical Officer of Health has powers to issue orders under the HPPA
- ❑ The Medical Officer of Health is appointed by the board of health and approved by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Core functions of public health include preventing disease, protecting and promoting health



- ❑ Prevention of diseases and injuries
- ❑ Control of infectious and reportable diseases
- ❑ Protection from health hazards
- ❑ Promotion of health
- ❑ Monitoring health status
- ❑ Evaluating public health services
- ❑ Researching public health problems

Ontario Public Health Standards set requirements for public health in Ontario



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control
Rabies Prevention and Control
Tuberculosis Prevention and Control
Sexual Health, Sexually Transmitted Infections,
and Blood-borne Infections
Vaccine Preventable Diseases

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Food Safety
Safe Water
Health Hazard Prevention and Management

CHRONIC DISEASES AND INJURIES

Chronic Disease Prevention
Prevention of Injury and Substance Misuse

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

FAMILY HEALTH

Reproductive Health
Child Health

Standards identify board of health outcomes for each program area

Example: Tuberculosis Prevention and Control

GOAL:

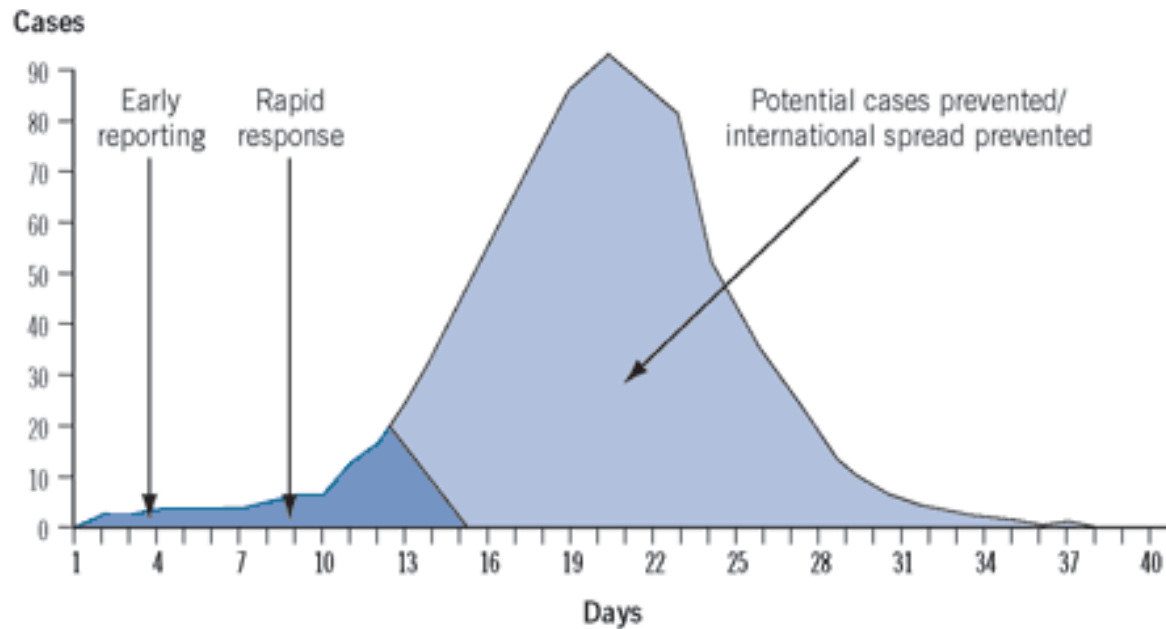
To prevent or reduce the burden of tuberculosis

BOARD OF HEALTH OUTCOMES:

- ❑ The public is aware of tuberculosis (TB) and its prevention
- ❑ Public health risks associated with active TB are mitigated
- ❑ Individuals with infectious TB are isolated
- ❑ Individuals with active TB (cases) receive the appropriate medication
- ❑ Individuals with active TB or LTBI are identified
- ❑ Individuals with LTBI are offered appropriate treatment



Impact of public health action



Source: World Health Organization

Tools to ensure board of health accountability



- ❑ Reports to Committee and Council
- ❑ Presentations to Committee
- ❑ Responses to specific queries from Councillors
- ❑ Performance indicators

Public health encompasses multiple components

