



# Board of Health Orientation

Presentation to Health and  
Emergency Medical Services  
Committee

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# Overview of presentation

## □ Overview:

- Legal framework for public health
- Duties and responsibilities of board of health
- Public health system



# 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 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
- ❑ Boards of health can be independent boards of health or municipal corporations (e.g. York Region)

# 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

# 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 selected 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  
11 Protocols

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

Food Safety  
Safe Water  
Health Hazard Prevention and Management  
6 Protocols

## **CHRONIC DISEASES AND INJURIES**

Chronic Disease Prevention  
Prevention of Injury and Substance Misuse  
2 Protocols

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Public Health Emergency Preparedness  
1 Protocol

## **FAMILY HEALTH**

Reproductive Health  
Child Health  
5 Protocols

# Standards identify board of health outcomes for each program area



## **Example: Tuberculosis Prevention and Control**

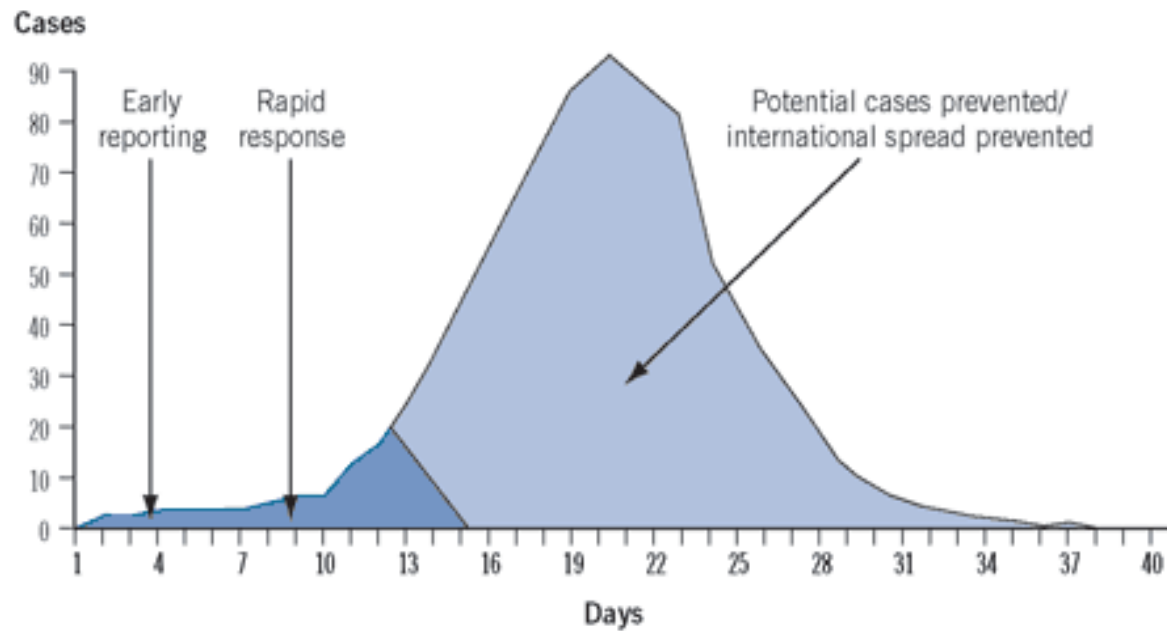
### **GOAL:**

To prevent or reduce the burden of tuberculosis (TB)

### **BOARD OF HEALTH OUTCOMES:**

- ☐ 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



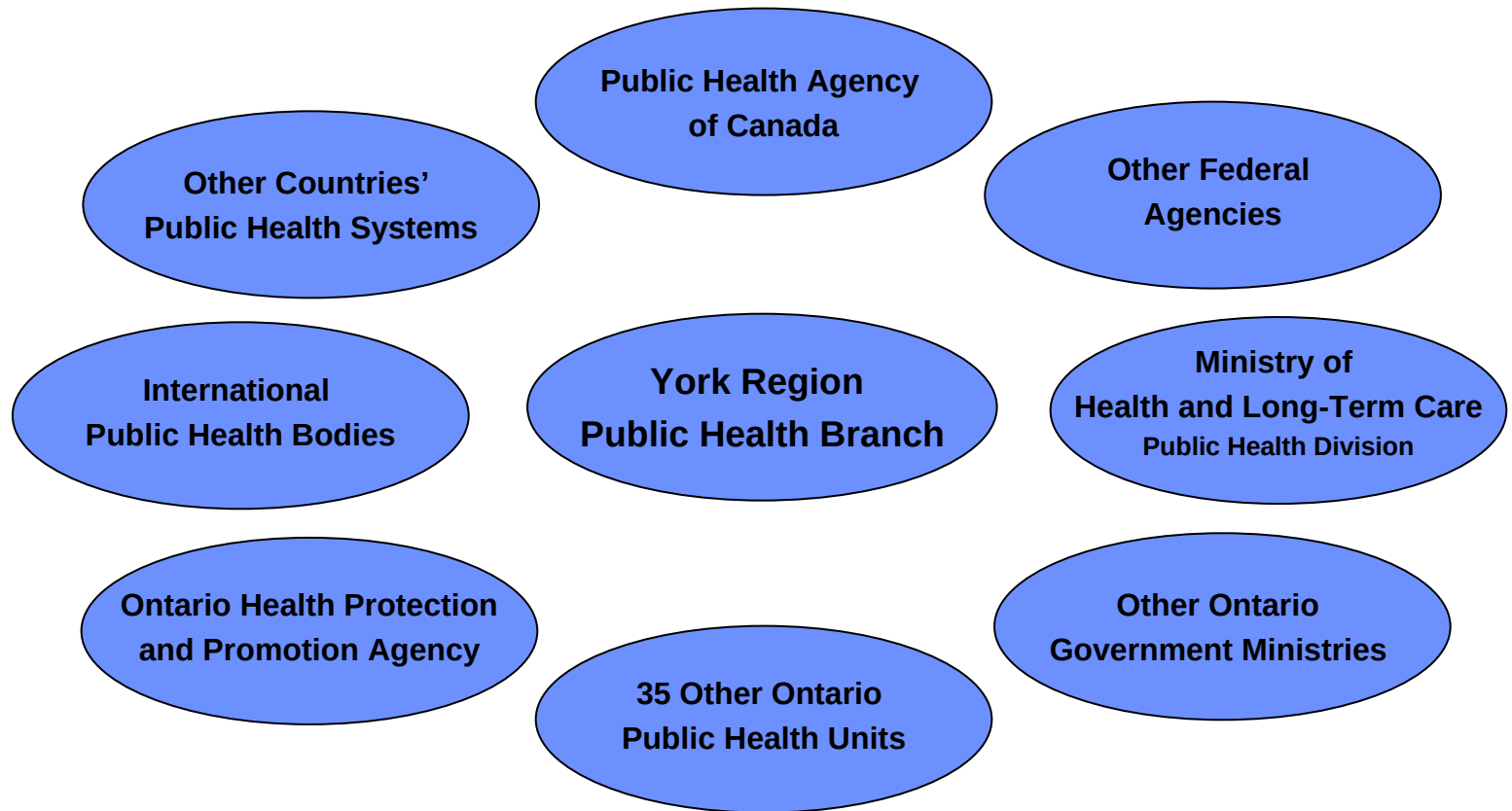
Source: World Health Organization

# 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



# MOHLTC and LHIN : Areas of Responsibility

## MOHTLC

- ❑ Public Health
- ❑ Ambulance services
- ❑ Laboratories
- ❑ Provincial drug programs
- ❑ Provincial programs
- ❑ Individual practitioners and Family Health Teams
- ❑ Independent Health Facilities

## LHIN

- ❑ Hospitals
- ❑ Community Care Access Centres (CCACs)
- ❑ Long-term care facilities
- ❑ Community health centres
- ❑ Community support service organizations (e.g. personal assistance services, homemaking, friendly visiting)
- ❑ Addictions & mental health agencies

