Appendix C: Findings of the Environmental Scan

Table C-18: Selected Public Health Standards: <u>Goals, Outcomes, and Requirements</u>

Jurisdiction	Title of Standard	Goal	Societal Outcomes	Public Health Outcomes	Requirements	Equity Reference
Ontario	Ontario Public Health Standards 2008 **Revised October, 2015**	**Foundational Standard** Public health programs and services that are informed by evidence are the foundation for effective public health practice. Evidence-informed practice is responsive to the needs and emerging issues of the health unit and uses the best available evidence to address them. Population health assessment, surveillance, research, and program evaluation generate evidence that contributes to the public health knowledge base and ultimately improves public health programs and services. **Goal** Public health practice responds effectively to current and evolving conditions, and contributes to the public's health and well-being.	Population health needs are anticipated, identified, addressed, and evaluated. Emerging threats to the public's health are prevented or mitigated. Community-based planning and delivery of public health programs and services incorporate new public health knowledge.	Public health programs and services are planned and implemented to address local population health needs. The public, community partners, and health care providers are aware of relevant and current population health information. The board of health identifies public health priorities, including identification of emerging public health issues. The board of health allocates resources to reflect public health priorities and reallocates resources, as feasible, to reflect emergent public health priorities. Relevant audiences have available information that is necessary for taking appropriate action. Public health practitioners, policy-makers, community partners, health care providers,	**Population Health Assessment** Population health assessment includes measuring, monitoring, and reporting on the status of a population's health, including determinants of health and health inequities. Population health assessment provides the information necessary to understand the health of populations through the collaborative development and ongoing maintenance of population health profiles, identification of challenges and opportunities, and monitoring of the health impacts of public health practice. **Requirements** The board of health shall assess current health status, health behaviours, preventive health practices, health care utilization relevant to public health, and demographic indicators in accordance with the *Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008* (or as current).	**Health Status:** well-being, health inequity **Root Causes:** social determinants **Populations:** priority populations, at risk

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				and the public are aware of the best available research regarding the factors that determine the health of the population and support effective public health practice. The board of health has effective partnerships with community researchers, academic partners, and other appropriate organizations to support public health research and knowledge exchange. The board of health identifies program implementation issues in a timely and effective manner. Public health practitioners and policy-makers are aware of the effectiveness of existing programs and services, as well as of factors contributing to their outcomes.	The board of health shall assess trends and changes in local population health in accordance with the *Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008* (or as current). The board of health shall use population health, determinants of health and health inequities information to assess the needs of the local population, including the identification of populations at risk, to determine those groups that would benefit most from public health programs and services (i.e., priority populations3). The board of health shall tailor public health programs and services to meet local population health needs, including those of priority populations, to the extent possible based on available resources. The board of health shall provide population health information, including determinants of health and health inequities to the public, community partners, and health care providers, in accordance with the *Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008* (or as current). **Surveillance** Surveillance is the systematic and ongoing collection, collation, and	

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					analysis of health-related information that is communicated in a timely manner to all who need to know, so that action can be taken. Surveillance contributes to effective public health program planning, delivery, and management. Dissemination of surveillance analyses may take the form of reports, advisories, healthy public policy recommendations, alerts, or warnings. Surveillance has historically been associated with infectious diseases and vaccination programs, but its importance has become increasingly recognized for environmental health issues, child health, reproductive health, chronic disease prevention, and injury prevention. **Requirements** The board of health shall conduct surveillance, including the ongoing collection, collation, analysis, and periodic reporting of population health indicators, as required by the Health Protection and Promotion Act and in accordance with the *Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008* (or as current). The board of health shall interpret and use surveillance data to communicate information on risks to relevant audiences in accordance	

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					with the *Identification, Investigation and Management of Health Hazards Protocol, 2008* (or as current); the *Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2008* (or as current); the *Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008* (or as current); the *Public Health Emergency Preparedness Protocol, 2008* (or as current); and the *Risk Assessment and Inspection of Facilities Protocol, 2008* (or as current).	

Research and Knowledge Exchange

Exploring an issue or investigating a question is accomplished through research the organized and purposeful collection, analysis, and interpretation of data. Research may involve the primary collection of new data or the analysis or synthesis of existing data and research findings. Knowledge exchange is collaborative problem-solving among public health practitioners, researchers, and decision-makers, which takes place through linkage and exchange. It results in mutual learning through the process of planning, producing, disseminating, and applying existing or new research in decision-making.

Program Evaluation

Program evaluation is the systematic gathering, analysis, and reporting of data about a program to assist in decision-making. It includes

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					quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method approaches. Program evaluation produces the information needed to support the establishment of new programs and services (needs assessment); assess whether evidence-informed programs are carried out with the necessary reach, intensity, and duration (process evaluation); or document the effectiveness and efficiency of programs and services (outcome evaluation).	
Environmental Health Program Standards (Food Safety Protocol)						
		Goal To prevent or reduce the burden of food-borne illness.	There is reduced incidence of food-borne illness. There is reduced exposure to food that is unfit for human consumption. Private and public food providers handle and manage food in a safe and sanitary manner. Food prepared in private homes is handled and managed in a safe and sanitary manner. Policies developed by community partners integrate safe food-handling practices.	The board of health achieves timely and effective detection and identification of: • Food-borne illnesses; • Their associated risk factors and emerging trends; and • Unsafe food in food premises. The board of health mitigates food-borne illness risks. The board of health is aware of and uses epidemiology to influence the development of healthy public policy and its programs and services to reduce the burden of food-borne illness of public health importance. Food handlers in food premises	**Assessment and Surveillance** The board of health shall conduct surveillance of: • Suspected and confirmed food-borne illnesses; and • Food premises in accordance with the *Food Safety Protocol, 2008* (or as current) and the *Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008* (or as current). The board of health shall conduct epidemiological analysis of surveillance data, including monitoring of trends over time, emerging trends, and priority populations, in accordance with the *Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008* (or as current).	**Populations:** priority populations

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				handle and manage food in a safe and sanitary manner. Community partners are aware of safe food-handling practices and food safety issues. The public is aware of safe food-handling practices and food safety issues.	The board of health shall report Food Safety Program data elements in accordance with the *Food Safety Protocol, 2008* (or as current). **Health Promotion and Policy Development** The board of health shall ensure food handlers in food premises have access to training in safe food-handling practices and principles in accordance with the *Food Safety Protocol, 2008* (or as current). The board of health shall increase public awareness of food-borne illnesses and safe food-handling practices and principles in accordance with the *Food Safety Protocol, 2008* (or as current) by: • Adapting and/or supplementing national and provincial food safety communications strategies; and/or • Developing and implementing regional/local communications strategies. **Disease Prevention/Health Protection** The board of health shall ensure that the medical officer of health or designate is available on a 24/7 basis to receive reports of and respond to: • Suspected and confirmed food-borne illnesses or outbreaks; • Unsafe food-handling practices,	

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					food recalls, adulteration, and consumer complaints; and • Food-related issues arising from floods, fires, power outages, or other situations that may affect food safety in accordance with the Health Protection and Promotion Act; the *Food Safety Protocol, 2008* (or as current); the *Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2008* (or as current); and the *Public Health Emergency Preparedness Protocol, 2008* (or as current). The board of health shall inspect food premises and provide all the components of the Food Safety Program within food premises as defined by the Health Protection and Promotion Act and in accordance with the Food Premises Regulation (O. Reg. 562); the *Food Safety Protocol, 2008* (or as current); and all other applicable Acts.	
Nova Scotia	Nova Scotia Public Health Standards, 2011-2016	**Foundational Standard**				
		Public health's work is grounded in health equity and social justice. Public health strives to improve the health of the population overall and reduce health inequities among populations. Public health's focus is to: • Prevent disease or	Population needs are anticipated, identified, addressed, and evaluated. Emerging threats to the public's health are prevented or mitigated.	The public, community partners and healthcare providers are aware of relevant and current population health information and have the information necessary for taking appropriate action. Public health programs and services are planned and	**Understanding** Public health assesses the population's health including the existence and impact of inequalities/inequities. Public health conducts surveillance to monitor trends in health to identify and investigate potential public health threats.	**Health Status:** health equity, health inequity, health inequality **Root Causes:** risk factors, risk conditions, socioeconomic, environments,

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		conditions that are important contributors to the burden of disease; and/or • Prevent disease or conditions that are potentially important threats to health; and/or • Improve the overall health and resilience of the population, or sub-population. Public health focuses on upstream prevention from a population perspective to influence social, economic, and physical environments that support health. This necessitates engaging and working with a variety of sectors and partners outside the formal healthcare system. Public health assesses strengths and needs, and plans, implements and evaluates its actions demonstrating: • A deep understanding of the health of communities • Collaborative/collective action • Participatory leadership • Meaningful relationships • Roles appropriate to the		implemented to address local population health needs. Public health involves community partners and stakeholders across multiple levels in collective action. Public health staff have the necessary competencies to perform their work. Public health establishes the necessary infrastructure to foster system functioning. Public health is prepared to detect and respond to public health emergencies and emergencies with public health impact.	Public health works with partners and communities to seek understanding of the meaning of information considering the ethical, political, scientific, socio-cultural and economic contexts. Public health provides population health information, including determinants of health and health inequities, to the public, community partners, and health care providers. Public health utilizes a population health approach/cycle to priority setting and planning that • Bases decisions on population health status; an analysis of health determinants; and, existing evidence • Emphasizes upstream action (i.e., 'primordial prevention') • Utilizes public involvement; multiple strategies; and intersectoral collaboration • Evaluates results. Public health tailors programs and services to meet population health needs including those of priority populations. **Health Equity and Social Justice** Public health assesses and reports on the health of populations describing the existence and impact of health inequalities and inequities and, effective strategies to address those	social determinants **Populations:** priority populations, sub-populations **Interventions:** upstream

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		context. This includes a greater shift to: advocate, connector, collaborator, coach, mentor, champion, builder of competencies, facilitator, catalyst for change and innovator.			inequalities/inequities. Public health modifies and orients its interventions to reduce inequities including the consideration of the unique needs and capacities of priority populations. Public health partners with other service providers to collectively address health inequities. Public health engages and enables communities and other stakeholders in policy analysis, development and advocacy. **Public Health Workforce Development** Public health periodically determines the competencies, composition and size of the public health workforce. Public health identifies and addresses gaps in the public health workforce. Public health identifies staff education and training needs and provides opportunities to develop core public health competencies and program-specific competencies to the levels required by their position. Public health fosters leadership development at all organizational and system levels.	

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					Public Health Emergency Management Public health identifies and assesses the relevant hazards and risks to the public's health. Public health possesses a continuity of operations plan to sustain ongoing functioning of time-critical services during business disruptions. Public health, in consultation with partners, develops its emergency response plan for scenarios in which public health will have a lead role. Public health provides emergency preparedness and response education and training to its staff. Public health exercises its emergency management plans. **Public Health System Infrastructure Development** Public health establishes the necessary infrastructure to foster system functioning. This includes, but is not limited to, • public health legislation and associated regulations • detailed protocols in support of these standards • clarity of roles and responsibilities • accountability mechanisms • research and development • information systems.	

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		Environmental Health Standard				
		Although environmental health is grounded in legislated health protection activities, it is important to recognize the broad range of stakeholders that play a role in preventing disease and creating health supportive environments. These include municipal and local governments, non-government organizations, professional organizations, community activists and businesses.	Communities are healthier, safer and more sustainable due to: • the prevention or elimination of environmental health hazards • equitable access to clean water, food, air and structural environments • ability to identify, anticipate and adapt to existing and emerging environmental health hazards • knowing where to go to get what they need to address environmental health issues. There is a decrease in environmental health risks and a decrease in food, water and vector borne diseases.	Communities are engaged in inclusive, participatory decision making processes. Public health decisions (including policy advice) are based on evidence and reflect community need. Public health has 'reach' into appropriate forums and has clear processes for communication between partners, internal and external. There is timely identification and response to potential environmental health hazards, can anticipate emerging environmental health threats and can detect environmental health trends.	Public health conducts population health assessment and surveillance seeking understanding regarding environmental health issues, identifying the existence and impact of inequalities/inequities and priority populations. Note: see more detailed descriptions in the Foundational Standard and associated protocol. Public health collaborates with environmental partners and stakeholders • to clarify roles and responsibilities • to foster action to improve environmental health • to provide strategic direction for environmental health. Public health monitors for, and responds to, health hazards in accordance with legislation and regulations. Note: environmental health issues can escalate into public health emergencies - see Public Health Emergency Management requirements and related protocol. Public health assesses and addresses environmental health issues/risks. Public health strategically conducts policy analysis and seeks policy	**Health Status:** health inequality, health inequity, equitable access/distribution **Root Causes:** environments, social determinants **Populations:** priority populations **Interventions:** upstream, downstream

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					change to improve environmental health: • Identifies and addresses information gaps • Considers the needs of priority populations • Develops policies and positions that support an upstream approach to environmental health • Considers and acts on unintended impacts of existing legislation and policies • Ensure relevant evidence/information is available to inform the development and modification of legislation • Supports equitable distribution of environmental health services. Public health supports understanding and action by communities and individuals by: • Communicating environmental health risks in a variety of ways for different populations /audiences • Developing and providing tools and knowledge to enable communities to prevent, identify and respond to environmental health risks and needs • Facilitating access to knowledge and resources to navigate the environmental health system.	