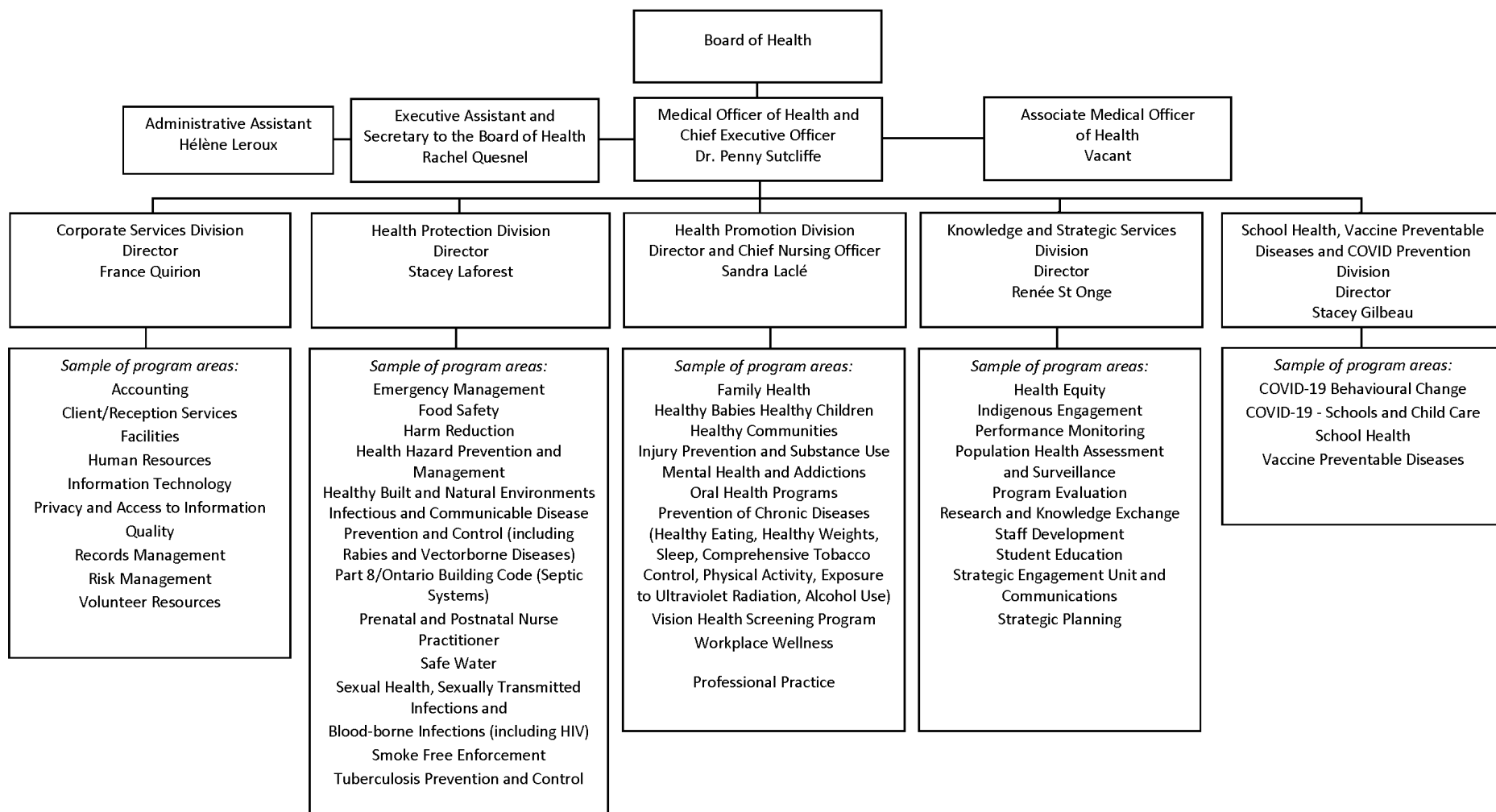


Public Health Actions in Support of Safe School Re-opening

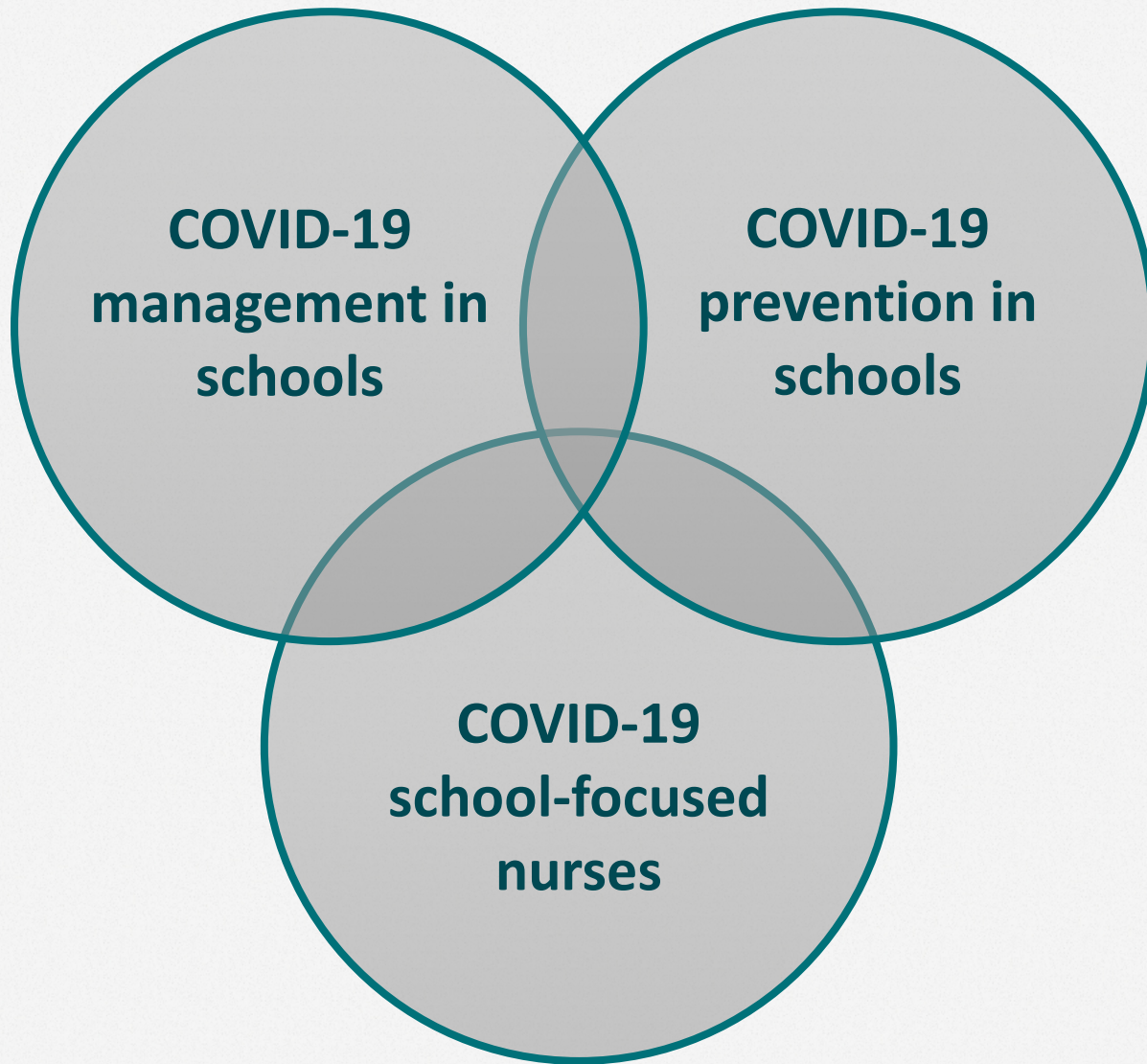
Board of Health
September 17, 2020



Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS



R: August 24, 2020



COVID-19 prevention in schools

- first line of defense
- upstream, strength-based approach
- behaviour change
- comprehensive school health approach
- mental health promotion

COVID-19 management in schools

- Guidance documents:
 - Guide to reopening Ontario's schools (MOH, July 30)
 - Operational guidance: COVID-19 management in schools (EDU, August 26)
 - COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management (MOH, August 26)
 - Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario Version 9.0 (MOH, September 8)

What to do: If a student is ill during school hours



Student is ill

Consult the Ministry of Health's *COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms*: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_reference_doc_symptoms.pdf. Anyone caring for the student should maintain as much physical distance as possible.

Notify principal or designate

Principal coordinates immediate student pick-up and designates area to isolate the student. Refer to *COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms*.



Isolate student

Bring the student to established isolation area and use the designated personal protective equipment (PPE) kit. Persons caring for the ill student should wear a medical mask and eye protection. If tolerated, the ill student should also wear a medical mask. Practise hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.



Call parent or guardian to arrange pick up of student

Provide the following information for parents: Your child has been identified to have a COVID-19 symptom. Refer to *COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms*. Please bring the child home to self-isolate.

Complete the self-assessment tool for instructions on testing and self-isolation, or as advised by your medical provider. Follow guidance under the return to school section of the Government of Ontario's *Operational guidance: COVID-19 management in schools*: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/operational-guidance-covid-19-management-schools#section-6>.

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What happens when: A positive COVID-19 case is identified in a school community



Notification of positive result

Public Health is notified of a positive COVID-19 result in a student, staff, or visitor.

Case follow-up

Public Health contacts the individual who tested positive (or their parent/guardian) to:

- ensure self-isolation
- assess symptoms and exposures
- identify close contacts

Communication to school principal or designate

Public Health notifies the school principal or designate of the positive COVID-19 test result.



Sharing of contact information

Within 24 hours, the school principal or designate provides Public Health with lists of individuals who may have been in contact with the individual who tested positive (e.g., in the classroom, before and after care, and on school busses).

Contact follow-up

Public Health follows up with contacts to provide them with further instruction, based on public health risk assessments. This may include testing, self-isolation, and/or self-monitoring.

Communication to school community

The school principal or designate informs the school community that a member of the school community has tested positive for COVID-19, and communicates any school, class, or cohort closures.

September 2020

COVID-19 school-focused nurses

- 12 nurses
- 7 school boards
- 116 schools
 - 80 elementary
 - 23 secondary
 - 4 alternative
 - 2 private
 - 7 First Nations
 - 3 post-secondary
- 29 129 students



Top 10 COVID-19 Basic Rules for Safe Schools

1. The best way to protect schools and support a successful school reopening is to keep COVID-19 out of our communities.
2. Make COVID-19 symptom screening part of your daily routine.
3. Got symptoms? Stay home!
4. Have a “plan B”.
5. Talk to each other.
6. Stay informed.
7. Be prepared.
8. Get involved.
9. Take care of yourself.
10. Be COVID kind. Practise kindness, patience, and gratitude—we are all in this together.

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