

2022

District Area Snapshots of Public Health

Chapleau area



February 2023



Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

Message from Dr. Penny Sutcliffe

Collaborative. Compassionate. Strong. Resilient. As I reflect on 2022 and the difficult two years before that, these are a few of the characteristics that come to mind when I think of the people, partners, and communities in the Public Health Sudbury & Districts (Public Health) service area. The COVID-19 pandemic was like nothing any of us have seen or experienced firsthand before. As the Medical Officer of Health, I am proud of how we responded locally and humbled by the way communities collaborated to support the local response to ensure the health and safety of not only ourselves but also those around us.

In February 2022, Public Health released its COVID-19 [*Recovery Plan*](#), signalling hope and a brighter future for the communities that we serve. While Public Health remains committed to providing ongoing services to prevent transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and protect individuals from severe COVID-19 illness, we also recognize the importance of resuming the other public health programs and services traditionally offered to promote health and prevent disease. Public Health's *Recovery Plan* identified four community-focused recovery priorities for public health action in support of healthy communities locally: Levelling up opportunities for health, fostering mental health gains, getting children back on track, and supporting safe spaces. Recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic will take time and will require the collective and collaborative action of individuals and community partners alike. Progress is and will continue to be made. This 2022 Snapshot of Public Health provides just a few highlights of the public health programs and services that occurred in the Chapleau area. As we transition from risk to recovery and resilience, I look forward to further strengthening relationships so we can collectively achieve **healthier communities for all**.

Dr. Penny Sutcliffe

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
for Public Health Sudbury & Districts

Our vision:

Healthier communities for all.

Our mission:

Working with our communities to promote and protect health and to prevent disease for everyone.

Strategic Priorities:

- 1 Equitable opportunities
- 2 Meaningful relationships
- 3 Practice excellence
- 4 Organizational commitment

Our Values:



Humility



Trust



Respect

Introduction

In the 2022 District Area Snapshot of Public Health for Chapleau area, readers will find a brief overview of Ontario's public health system, including our local public health agency, Public Health Sudbury & Districts (Public Health). The 2022 District Area Snapshot report includes highlights of public health activities in the Chapleau area during the 2022 calendar year and is not meant to be an exhaustive accounting of all programs and services offered. While the 2022 District Area Snapshot also includes highlights of local COVID-19 response activities in the Chapleau area, the focus of the report is on the resumption of non-COVID-19 public health programs and services.

Public health programs and services are often a joint effort, in collaboration with the public, community agencies, and municipalities. We all have a role to play in ensuring equal opportunities for all for health; in creating vibrant and safe communities where all individuals can achieve their optimal health and well-being. For Public Health, this is our primary focus. As illustrated in our video, [Public Health: an investment in our community's health is an investment in you](#), Public Health often works behind the scenes and may not always be visible, but it is always present. This Snapshot report tells the story of local public health; informing readers about how their public health investments are being spent to prevent illness, promote health, and protect us all.

A bit about the Chapleau area

Public Health is proud to work with and for the people who live, learn, work, and play in the **70** square kilometers that make up the Chapleau area that includes the town of Chapleau and the four nearby First Nations*. Home to approximately **2 385** people, the Chapleau area comprises approximately **4%** of the Public Health service area and approximately **1.2%** of Public Health's total population. Residents in the Chapleau area speak predominately English or French at home. Approximately **27.5%** of the population reports their first

official language as French, **0.4%** report their first official language spoken to be both English and French, and approximately **72.1%** of the population reports their first official language as English. The Chapleau area experienced a **3.4%** increase in its population between 2016 and 2021, demonstrating that it continues to be a vibrant community to call home (Source: Statistics Canada, 2021; Public Health Sudbury & Districts Dashboard).

* The office also services a part of the Sudbury, Unorganized, North Part Census Subdivision, which consists of an area spanning approximately **35 595** square kilometres with a population of only **2 306**. However, that part of Sudbury Unorganized, North Part immediately surrounding Chapleau is very sparsely populated, and it is impracticable to include in this profile.

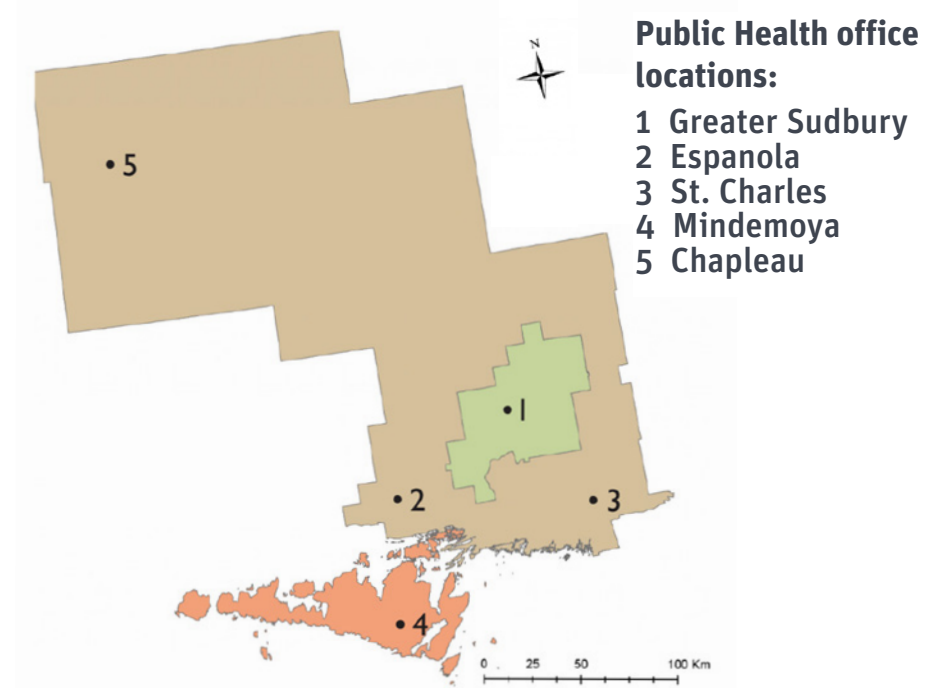


Figure 1: Map of Public Health's service area and the location of its five offices.

Ontario's public health system

The public health system aims to support the health of the entire population, while at the same time “levelling up” so that there is a smaller gap in health and well-being outcomes between groups that have more and less opportunities for health. Given the many factors that influence health, Public Health’s actions are diverse. Public Health’s mandate includes the explicit requirement to reduce inequities in health and support opportunities for health for all. As a result, public health action often targets “upstream” structures and systems that are beyond an individual’s control—yet are important determinants of health. Public health initiatives further “downstream” are especially focused on supporting those who are more at risk or who are experiencing greater disadvantages (**Figure 2**). Specific examples of upstream and downstream actions of Public Health are overlaid in **Figure 2**. Often confused with the publicly funded health care system, the public health system emphasizes upstream actions to create fairer systems and structures to reduce health inequities. This is a defining feature of the public health system.

In Ontario, there are **34** publicly funded public health agencies responsible for delivering local public health programs and services mandated by the Ontario Public Health Standards, under the provincial *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

These agencies are governed by boards of health who must uphold the *Act* for the benefit of the communities they serve. In addition to these **34** local public health agencies, Ontario’s public health system is comprised of provincial ministries and agencies, all working in collaboration with primary health care providers and laboratories, among others.

As with other publicly funded services, public health is a “public good” available to everyone. Approximately **90%** of a local public health agency’s budget is cost-shared between the province and local municipalities, with the province contributing up to **70%** of this funding. Some other programs are fully funded by the provincial government.

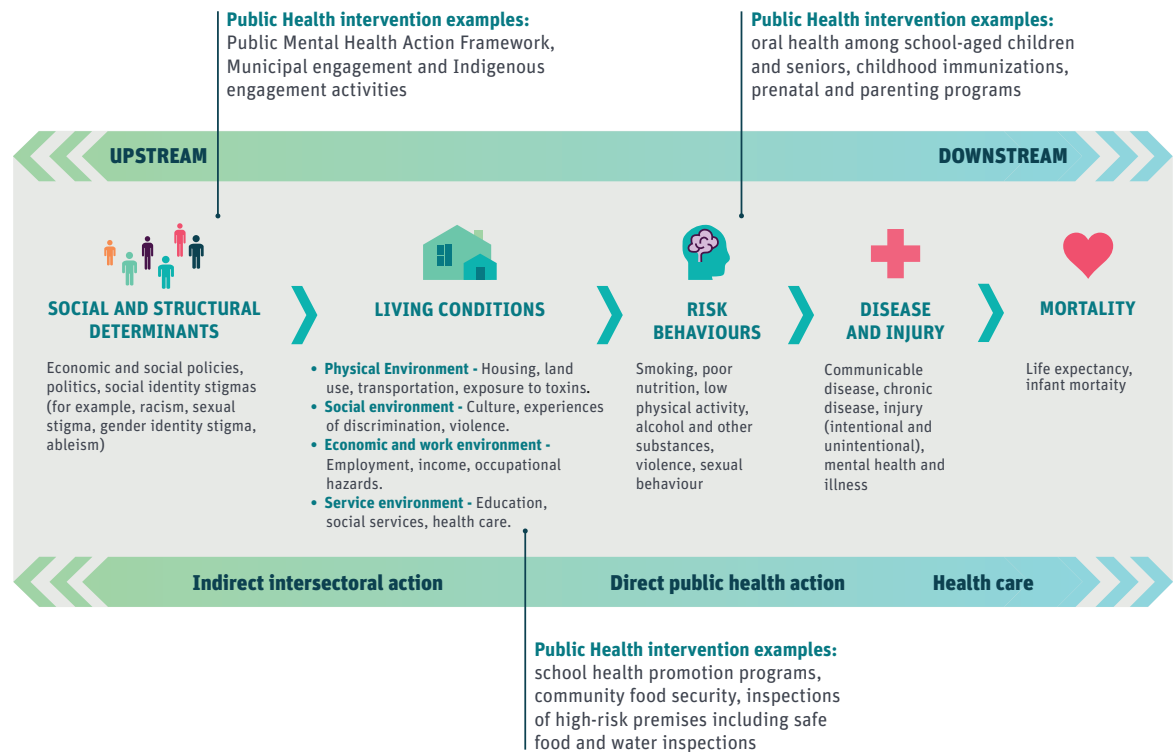


Figure 2: Continuum of interventions to address the determinants of health©. All rights reserved. Chief Public Health Officer’s Report on the State of Public Health in Canada: A Vision to Transform Canada’s Public Health System. Public Health Agency of Canada. Modified, adapted and reproduced with permission from the Minister of Health, 2023.

Your local public health unit

Public Health Sudbury & Districts' structure

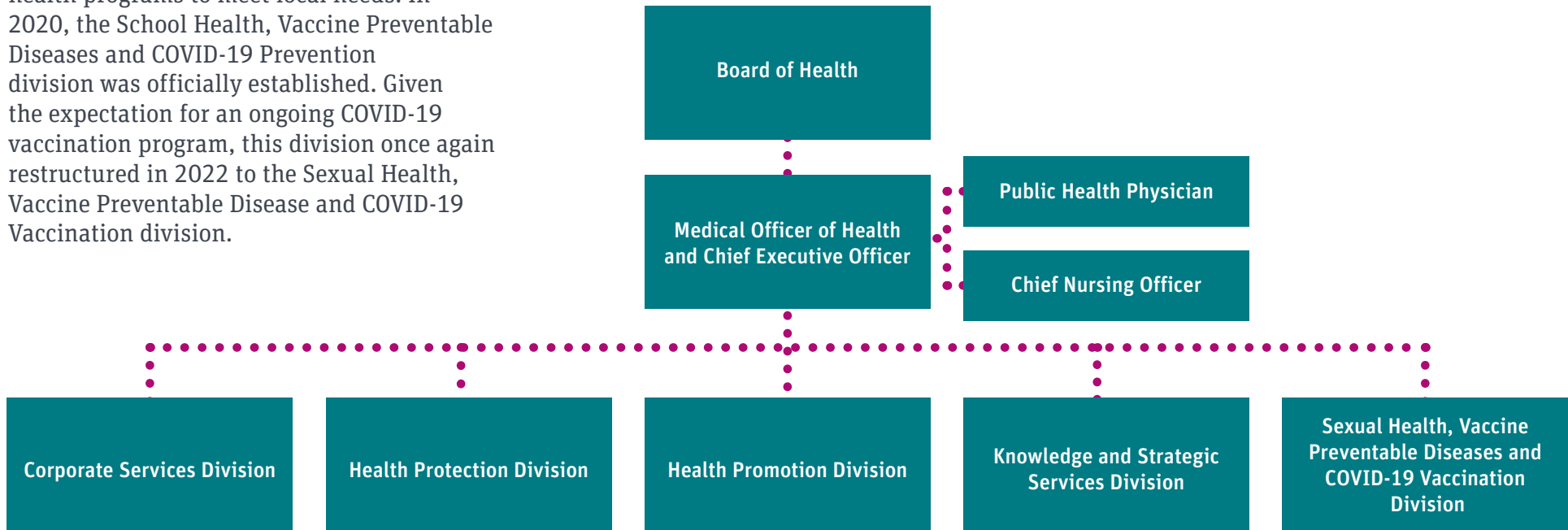
An autonomous Board of Health governs Public Health Sudbury & Districts. Membership on the Board is determined by legislation and includes municipally appointed representatives from across Public Health's service area in addition to provincial appointees. The Chapleau area is represented by one individual appointed by the municipality.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Public Health realigned to effectively deliver public health programs to meet local needs. In 2020, the School Health, Vaccine Preventable Diseases and COVID-19 Prevention division was officially established. Given the expectation for an ongoing COVID-19 vaccination program, this division once again restructured in 2022 to the Sexual Health, Vaccine Preventable Disease and COVID-19 Vaccination division.

In addition to disease prevention, Public Health also provides a variety of programs and services to protect and promote the health of the people in the communities we serve in an efficient, effective, and evidence-informed manner. Overall, programs and services are delivered by five divisions with each reporting to the Medical Officer of Health, who reports to the Board of Health.

Natalie Tessier
Appointed by
Municipal Council of the
Town of Chapleau

2023 Sudbury & District Board of Health



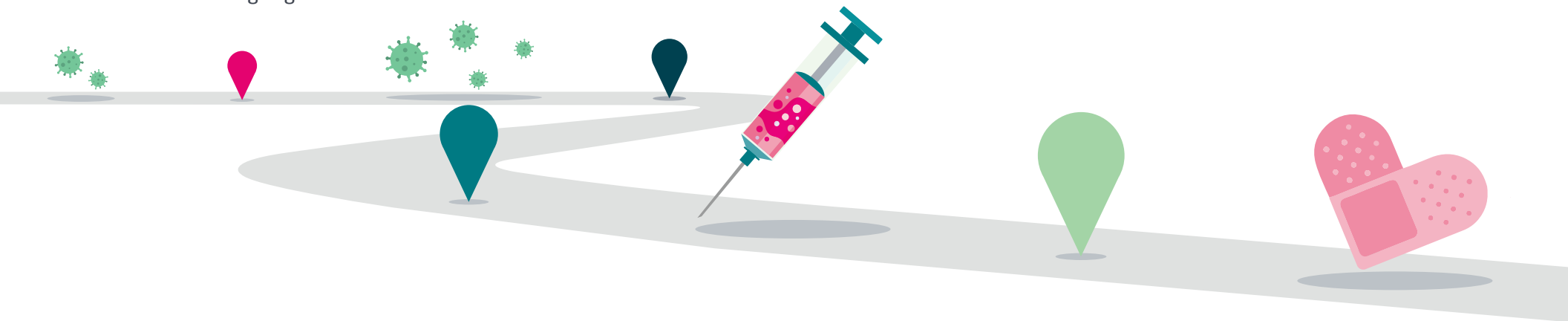
A snapshot of public health services in 2022

All hands on deck: responding to the COVID-19 pandemic locally in 2022

Programs and services offered by Public Health between 2020 and 2022 appear vastly different from years prior. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Public Health prioritized actions to reduce the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and prevention of severe COVID-19 disease. These actions included ongoing education about prevention, monitoring of cases and outbreaks, and Public Health's COVID-19 vaccination program. COVID-19 remains a threat to community health. In 2022, **2** outbreaks occurred in the Chapleau area. The COVID-19 vaccination program remains an important service that would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of so many community partners. In 2022 alone, for the Chapleau area, **2 132** vaccines were administered in **65** Public Health-led vaccination events. Following joint Public Health and partner efforts in 2021, Public Health took on the lead role of COVID-19 vaccination clinics in 2022. Vaccine clinics were offered in the Chapleau office in 2022 and led by Public Health's public health nurse. Partner support from local primary care providers was also available and utilized during high-demand clinics as needed.

Did you know?

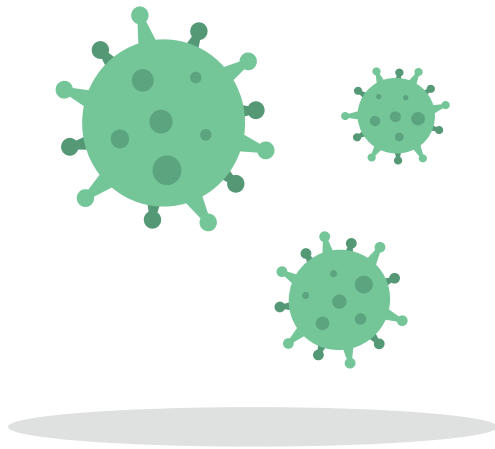
Public Health Sudbury & Districts has a diverse team of public health professionals to carry out its mission and public health mandated programs. These include but are not limited to public health physicians, public health nurses, public health inspectors, dental educators and hygienists, registered dietitians, epidemiologists, data analysts, health promoters, and more. We also employ a number of technical and support staff who assist in the operational functions of the organization and the programming we undertake in the various communities throughout the Chapleau area



Other programs and services of public health importance

Health Protection in 2022

In addition to responding to the local COVID-19 pandemic, Public Health continued to deliver a variety of essential programs and services in the Chapleau area, although capacity to deliver was impacted due to the redirection of staff to support COVID-19-related services. The following section provides highlights of these programs and services that aim to prevent disease and protect health for all residents in the Chapleau area.



Control of infectious diseases and infection control

- **1** case of reportable diseases investigated (includes, for example, enteric, vector borne, blastomycosis, and antibiotic resistant organisms (AROs) such as Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae)
- **19** cases of reportable diseases investigated (includes, for example, chickenpox, encephalitis, iGAS, invasive H. influenzae, influenza, meningitis—bacterial and viral, tuberculosis, and monkeypox)
- **224** COVID-19 cases investigated
- **14** child care, personal service settings, or long-term care facilities inspected
- **2** COVID-19-related IPAC Hub services conducted
- **5** reportable diseases (sexually transmitted infections) investigated

Vaccine preventable disease

- **8** cold chain visits completed, and **882** publicly funded vaccines provided to all healthcare providers
- Provision of school immunizations:
 - Hepatitis B, meningococcal, and human papillomavirus vaccines administered in **3** elementary schools
 - **17** immunizations administered at the Chapleau office location (including **8** hepatitis B, **6** human papillomavirus, and **3** menC-ACYW-135)



Sexual health

- **19** client visits conducted at the Chapleau office location
- **19** clients provided services through Nurse on Call



Smoke-free Ontario Act enforcement

- **7** youth access inspections (**6** tobacco related, **1** e-cigarette related)
- **11** display and promotion inspections conducted (**9** tobacco related, **2** e-cigarette related)
- **1** complaint investigated
- **1** compliance inspection or check of a school conducted
- **3** sale or supply charges or warnings issued
- **1** display or promotion or product charge, **0** warnings

Food safety

- **119** inspections of food premises completed
- **43** food recalls with follow-up responses completed
- **28** special event food permits issued
- **1** food complaint addressed



Did you know?



To provide quality public health programs and services within the Chapleau area, Public Health has aligned its highly skilled and trained staff with the communities' needs. Public Health has an office in Chapleau from which two public health nurses, one public health inspector, and one office assistant support Public Health programming for the residents of the Chapleau area. Other services are provided to Chapleau area residents where and when needed by Public Health main office staff and include, for example, healthy eating programming supports, dental health services, planning and evaluation supports for a variety of public health program areas, as well as support for emergency preparedness and response.

Environmental policy

- **1** heat warning issued (includes extreme heat warnings)

Vector-borne diseases, rabies, and Lyme disease

- **20** mosquito traps set
- **78** mosquitos trapped
- **12** animal exposures to rabies investigated, **0** animals submitted

Part 8 land control

- **8** sewage system permits processed
- **1** sewage completion notice
- **1** consent application

Health hazards

- **2** health hazard complaints investigated



Recreational water

- **3** beaches inspected weekly, a total of **6** beach inspections, **20** bacteriological samples taken
- **2** splash pads or Class C facilities inspected

Small drinking water systems

- **8** small drinking water systems inspected
- **8** small drinking water systems risk assessments completed
- **8** small drinking water systems directives completed

Did you know?



Health protection staff are available to participate in tabletop emergency preparedness exercises upon request and often comment on plans or proposals that may have a public health issue.

Drinking water

- **32** adverse drinking water reports investigated
- **8** boil water advisories or orders issued
- **2** drinking water advisories or orders issued
- **29** bacteriological samples taken



Healthy Babies Healthy Children

- **1** home visit conducted
- **1** new family followed
- **Four** 48-hour calls to parents that provided consent and live in the Chapleau area



Dental services

- **310** elementary school children participated in the dental screening program
- **23** children screened at school and referred to a family dentist for urgent care
- **5** children received preventive care at a public health office location



Climate change

Climate change is now recognized as a leading threat facing public health today, and the consequences of climate change are already being felt. Impacting human health through heat waves, wildfires, vector-borne diseases, and weather-related events such as flooding, extreme storms and freezing rain, strategies are urgently needed to protect us and the communities we live in. To help communities prepare for and adapt to the current climate crisis, Public Health prepared the [*Climate Change in Sudbury and Districts: Assessing Health Risks and Planning Adaptations Together*](#) report, which includes modelling projections for the impact of climate change in the Chapleau area in the years to come. Public Health is proud to support municipalities and community partners in developing strong environmental policies and contribute to the safety and well-being of people today and for generations to come.

Bouncing back. Building forward.

Health Promotion

Public Health plays a key role in the promotion of health and well-being and the prevention of chronic diseases and injuries. Unfortunately, for a period of time, responding to the local COVID-19 pandemic required the redirection of approximately **75%** of all Public Health resources. This redirection, including a redeployment of most staff, required many programs and services to be paused or stopped altogether. In 2022, Public Health began the journey of recovery, which included the repatriation of many of its Health Promotion staff. Given the intense and prolonged response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many Public Health staff focused their health promotion efforts in 2022 on re-engaging with community partners on shared areas of concern and community need. The following narratives provide a snapshot of a few of these health promotion collaborations that have reignited in 2022.

Resuming school health promotion programming

Throughout the school year Public Health staff were available to support schools and maintained regular connections with school staff. Continued support was provided to answer schools' questions about COVID-19 protocols and other public health topics. In 2022, Public Health staff provided three sexual health presentations to students from two schools on puberty and birth control. These presentations increased students' understanding of puberty and the importance of making informed decisions regarding their body. To further learning opportunities, new birth control kits were distributed to local high schools. Public Health staff also supported high school students with resources and information as they launched their *Mental Health Week Challenge*. Public Health will continue to foster positive relationships with these school communities to meet their needs for a healthy lifestyle.



Community Drug Strategy including needle exchange program and naloxone expansion

In the Chapleau area, mental health promotion and substance use programming continued to be identified as a priority. Naloxone continued to be distributed to community partners upon request. In 2022, 455 naloxone kits were distributed to the Chapleau area.

An ethics application was developed to begin local consultations to assess community awareness regarding substance use and their impacts in Chapleau and area. To further support this priority and increase access to harm reduction supplies, a memorandum of understanding was signed between Public Health and the methadone clinic in Chapleau to provide harm reduction kits. Harm reduction kits aim to reduce the risks of getting or passing on infectious diseases, like HIV and hepatitis C, and reduce risks associated with using drugs.

Public Health is committed to continued collaboration with local partners to address substance use in a safe and respectful manner.



Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program

The Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program (NFVP) is funded by the Ministry of Health in partnership with the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association and administered locally by staff from Public Health. From November to June, participating schools received weekly deliveries of fresh produce. The distribution and provision of vegetables and fruit through the NFVP was modified to meet COVID-19 health and safety protocols. This program provides one serving of vegetables and one serving of fruit per week to elementary school children in the Chapleau area. This distribution helps to increase the likeability, acceptance and consumption of fruit and vegetables among school-aged children. In the Chapleau area, a total of 5 schools, including First Nation schools, participated in the NFVP reaching 293 students during the 2021-2022 school year. In partnership with participating schools, Public Health staff will continue to administer the NFVP in the coming school year.

