

2022

District Area Snapshots of Public Health

Manitoulin Island area



February 2023



Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

Introduction

In the 2022 District Area Snapshot of Public Health for Manitoulin Island, 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 Manitoulin Island 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 on Manitoulin Island, 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 Manitoulin Island area

Public Health is proud to work with and for the people who live, learn, work, and play in the **3 107** square kilometres that makes up Manitoulin Island including seven First Nations. Home to approximately **13 935** people, the Manitoulin Island area comprises approximately **7%** of the Public Health service area and **6.9%** of Public Health's total population. Residents in the Manitoulin Island area speak predominately English or French at home (**96.7%**), while

the remaining **3.3%** report speaking one or more of the following languages at home: Ojibway languages (including Anishinaabemowin, Daawaamwin, and unspecified Ojibway languages), German, Polish, Russian, and Indo-Iranian and Indo-Aryan languages. Approximately **3.0%** of the population reports their first official language spoken to be French, and **96.9%** of the population reports their first official language as English. Approximately **5.9%** of the population reports their mother tongue as Indigenous, all from the Algonquian language family and the vast majority Ojibway-Potawatomi languages. Manitoulin Island experienced a **5.1%** 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).

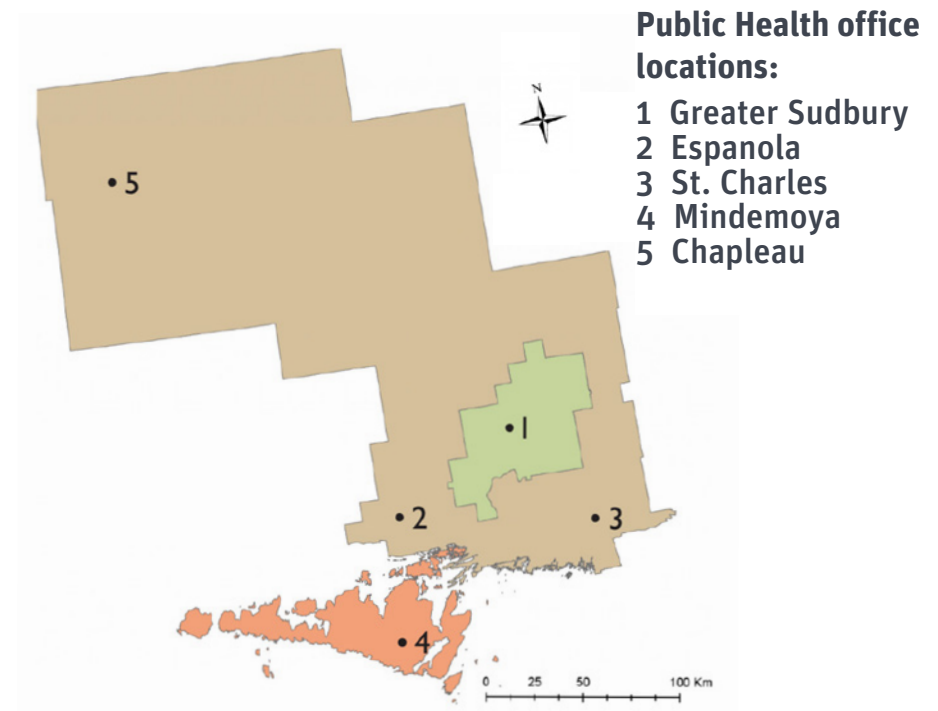


Figure 1: Map of Public Health's service area and the location of its five offices.

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.

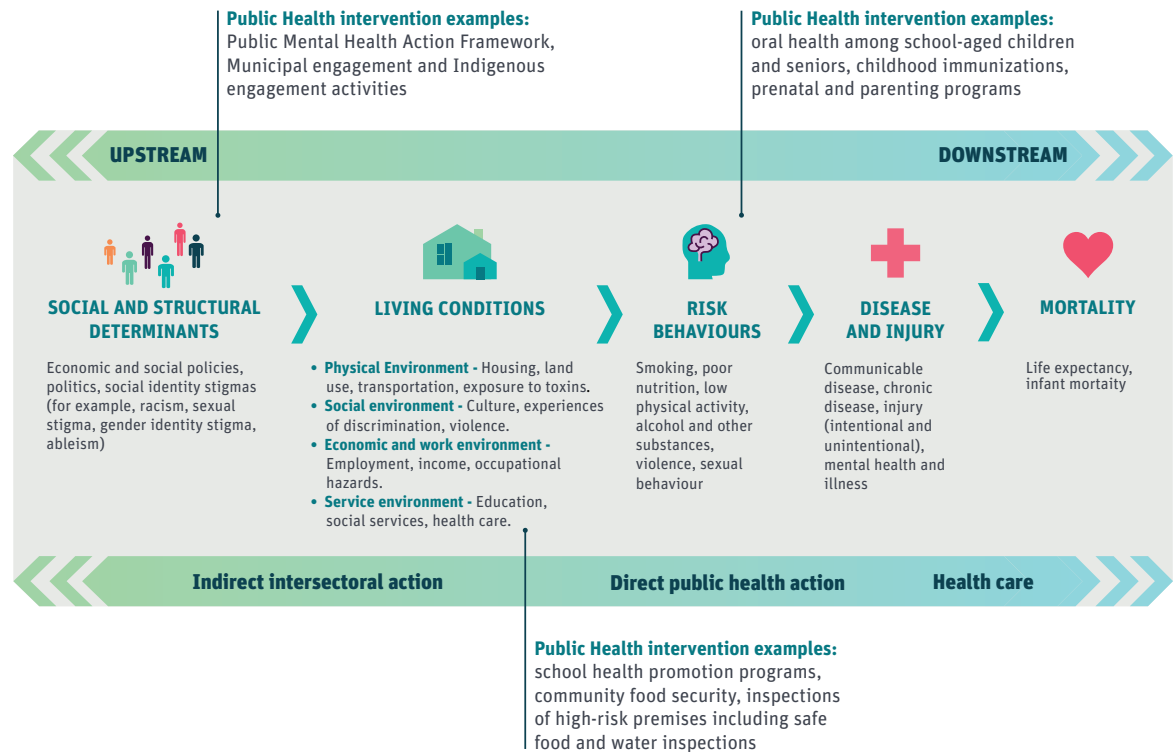


Figure 2: Continuum of interventions to address the determinants of health©. All rights reserved. Chief Public Health Officer’s Report on the State of Public Health in Canada: A Vision to Transform Canada’s Public Health System. Public Health Agency of Canada. Modified, adapted and reproduced with permission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

Your local public health unit

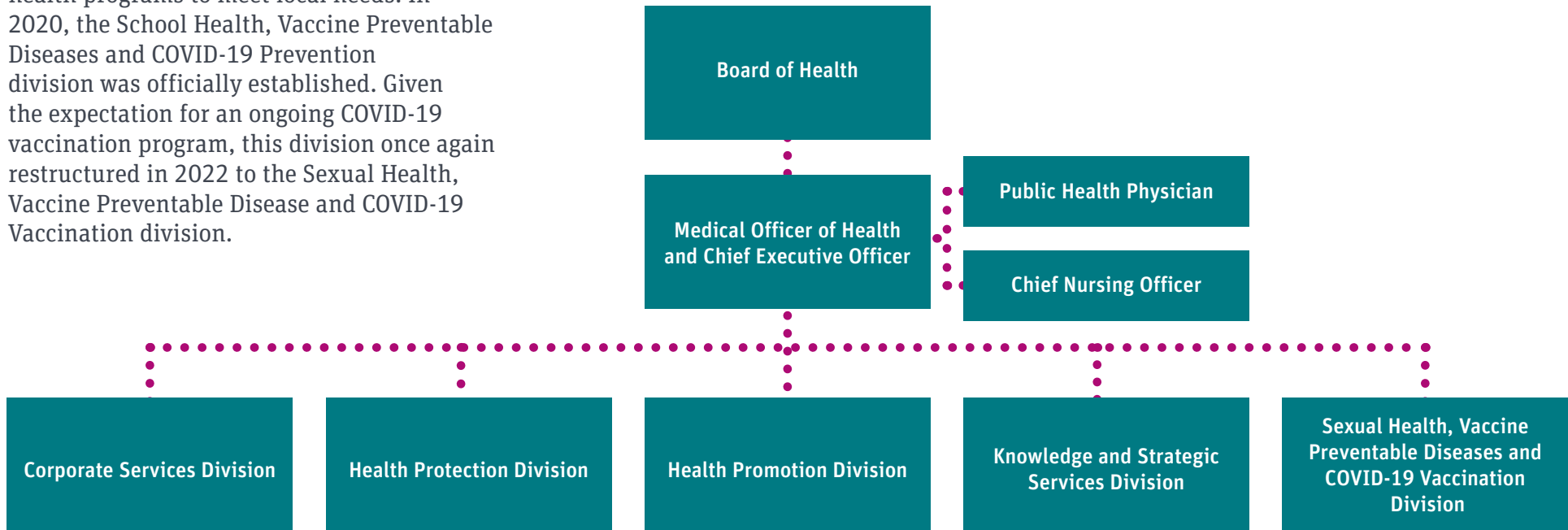
Public Health Sudbury & Districts' structure

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 Manitoulin Island 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.

Ken Noland
Municipal Council of the Town of Gore Bay, The Municipal Councils of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, and The Corporations of the townships of Assiginack, Barrie Island, Billings, Burpee and Mills, Central Manitoulin, Cockburn Island, Gordon, and Tehkummah
2023 Sudbury & District Board of Health



A snapshot of public health services in 2022

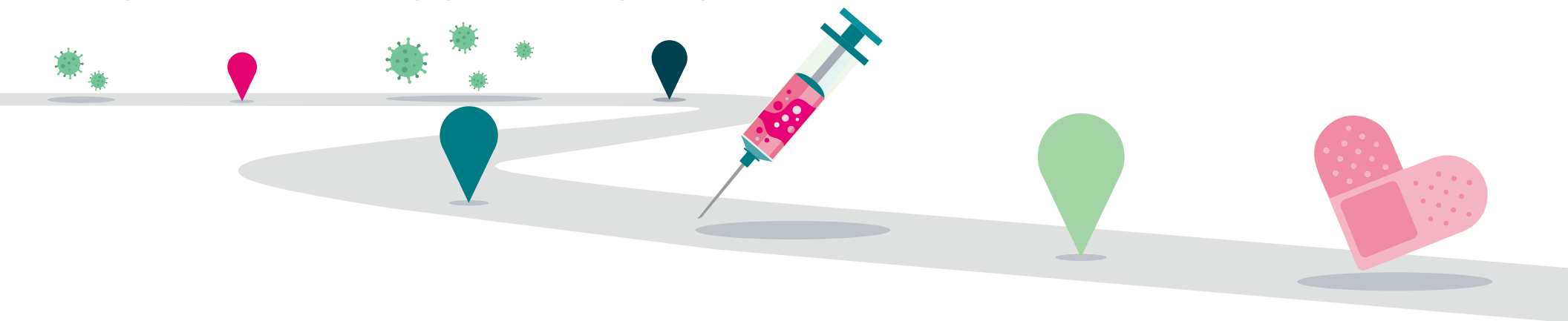
All hands on deck: responding to the COVID-19 pandemic locally in 2022

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, **9** outbreaks occurred in the Manitoulin Island 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 Manitoulin Island area, **5 906** vaccines were administered in **98** Public Health-led vaccination events. The generosity and support of the staff and volunteers of numerous primary care partners, municipalities, long-standing recurring clinic venues (such as Freshwater Church and the Northeastern Manitoulin & The Islands (NEMI) Recreation Centre), First-Nation communities, and pop-up and mobile bus vaccine clinic venues were instrumental in the implementation of COVID-19 clinics in 2022. To better serve those living throughout Manitoulin Island's vast geographic area, the agency began

offering regular COVID-19 vaccination clinics in the Mindemoya office in the summer of 2022. Public Health also provided vaccines and clinical support as needed to select Indigenous communities (such as Wiikwemkoong) to host their own First Nation-led clinics throughout the year. Additionally, Public Health partnered with the Ministry of Health and Canadian Red Cross Mobile Vaccination Team to deliver a three-day vaccination blitz throughout Manitoulin Island during the first week of November.

Did you know?

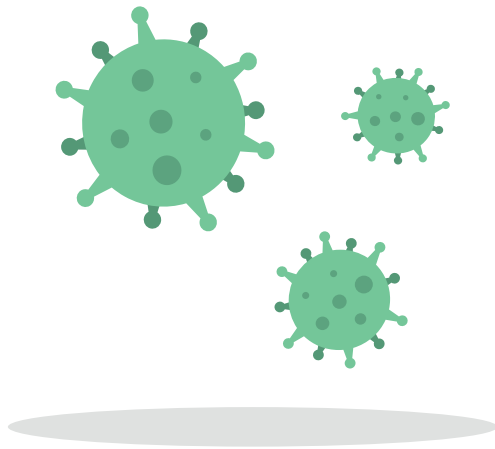
Public Health Sudbury & Districts has a diverse team of public health professionals to carry out its mission and public health mandated programs. These include but are not limited to public health physicians, public health nurses, public health inspectors, dental educators and hygienists, registered 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 Manitoulin Island 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 Manitoulin Island 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 Manitoulin Island area.



Control of infectious diseases and infection control

- **7** cases of reportable diseases investigated (includes, for example, enteric, vector borne, blastomycosis, and antibiotic resistant organisms (AROs) such as Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae)
- **12** cases of reportable diseases investigated (includes, for example, chickenpox, encephalitis, iGAS, invasive H. influenzae, influenza, meningitis—bacterial and viral, tuberculosis, and monkeypox)
- **1 102** COVID-19 cases investigated
- **22** child care, personal service settings, or long-term care facilities inspected
- **1** enteric outbreak investigated
- **33** COVID-19-related IPAC Hub services conducted
- **26** reportable diseases (sexually transmitted infections) investigated

Vaccine preventable disease

- **20** cold chain visits completed, and **7 125** publicly funded vaccines provided to all healthcare providers
- Provision of school immunizations:
 - Hepatitis B, meningococcal, and human papillomavirus vaccines administered in **4** elementary schools
 - Adacel® vaccine administered in **1** secondary school
 - **6** immunizations administered at the Mindemoya office location (including **2** hepatitis B, **3** human papillomavirus, and **1** menC-ACYW-135)



Sexual health

- **36** client visits conducted in the Mindemoya office location
- **16** clients seen in local high school
- **14** clients seen by sexual health clinic physician or nurse practitioner at Public Health office (includes pap smear and MPX PrEP services)
- **24** clients provided services through Nurse on Call



Smoke-free Ontario Act enforcement

- **9** youth access inspections (**9** tobacco related, **0** e-cigarette related)
- **9** display and promotion inspections conducted (**9** tobacco related, **0** e-cigarette related)
- **10** complaints investigated
- **1** compliance inspection or check of a school conducted
- **1** sale or supply charge or warning issued
- **1** smoking or vaping charge, **11** warnings in prohibited school area

Food safety

- **93** inspections of food premises completed
- **48** food recalls with follow-up responses completed
- **28** special event food permits issued
- **9** food complaints addressed



Did you know?



To provide quality public health programs and services within the Manitoulin Island area, Public Health has aligned its highly skilled and trained staff with the communities' needs. Public Health has an office in Mindemoya from which four public health nurses, two public health inspectors, one family home visitor, and one office assistant support Public Health programming for the residents of the Manitoulin Island area. Other services are provided to Manitoulin Island 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.

Part 8 land control

- **100** sewage system permits processed
- **35** sewage completion notices
- **1** private sewage complaint addressed
- **12** renovation applications processed
- **20** consent applications

Health hazards

- **6** health hazard complaints investigated



Recreational water

- **13** beaches inspected weekly, total of **45** beach inspections, **240** bacteriological samples taken
- **1** beach posted
- **1** public swimming pool or spa inspected
- **3** splash pads or Class C facilities inspected

Small drinking water systems

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

Vector-borne diseases, rabies, and Lyme disease

- **21** mosquito traps set
- **40** mosquitos trapped
- **29** animal exposures to rabies investigated, **2** animals submitted
- **7** ticks submitted for testing



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

- **149** adverse drinking water reports investigated
- **2** boil water advisories or orders issued
- **1** drinking water advisory or order issued
- **23** bacteriological samples taken



Healthy Babies Healthy Children

- **99** home visits conducted
- **2** new families followed
- **2** referrals to community services completed
- **1** external referral to the program
- **Twenty-five** 48-hour calls to parents that provided consent and live in the Manitoulin Island area
- **12** breastfeeding clinic appointments



Dental services

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



Climate change

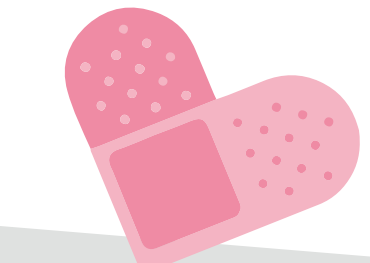
Climate change is now recognized as a leading threat facing public health today, and the consequences of climate change are already being felt. Impacting human health through heat waves, wildfires, vector-borne diseases, and weather-related events such as flooding, extreme storms and freezing rain, strategies 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 Manitoulin Island 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.

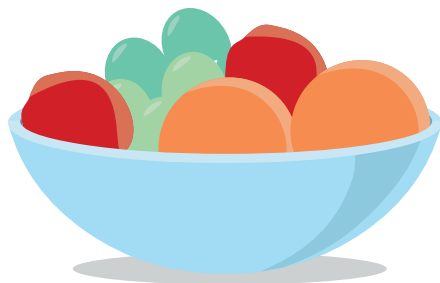
Health Promotion

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.



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, and the distribution and provision of vegetables and fruit through the NFVP was modified to meet COVID-19 health and safety protocols. The NFVP program provides one serving of vegetables and one serving of fruit per week to elementary school children on Manitoulin Island. It helps to increase the likeability, acceptance and consumption of fruit and vegetables among school-aged children. On Manitoulin Island, a total of 10 schools, including First Nation schools, participated in the NFVP reaching 1 332 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.



Community Drug Strategy including needle exchange program and naloxone expansion

On Manitoulin Island, mental health promotion and substance use programming continued to be identified as a priority. As co-chairs of the Manitoulin Drug Strategy Committee, Public Health staff met monthly with emergency responders, municipal partners, health centres, and First Nation communities to work on the local *Community Drug Strategy*. This year the committee created and distributed harm reduction pamphlets throughout the community. These pamphlets provided information on where to get naloxone and other harm reduction supplies and services locally. To build strong connections with the community, Public Health staff attended the Manitoulin Secondary School Expo and answered students' questions about substance use, harm reduction, and other public health topics.

All staff working in the Mindemoya office were trained to distribute naloxone to community members should they request it. The harm reduction distribution program continued to expand, and two new locations were identified and provided a safe needle disposal kiosk. Public Health will continue to work in collaboration with local partners to support those with substance use disorders through the distribution of harm reduction kits, naloxone, and increased access to safe needle disposal kiosks in the community.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) services and supports

Raising healthy families benefits everyone in the community. Throughout 2022, Public Health staff continued to collaborate with local family health teams, First Nation communities, and other agencies to support local families. Breastfeeding supports were able to resume in the Manitoulin Island area. These supports included a public health nurse that was available to provide consultations to new parents who were seeking breastfeeding support. In partnership with local First Nations, additional breastfeeding supports were provided to families upon request. Voluntary parenting classes and supports were also provided to parents with children aged 0–6. Throughout the year, the Health Information Line continued to confidentially connect parents to the supports they needed. Public Health will continue to work in collaboration with partners to support our local families in raising healthy families.



Infant feeding supports

The need for infant feeding support was identified as a priority by the community partners on Manitoulin Island. In partnership with M'Chigeeng First Nation and Noojmowin Teg Health Centre, a series of three infant feeding workshops were offered to residents on Manitoulin Island and the surrounding areas during November 2022. Participants gained knowledge on the importance of establishing a healthy feeding relationship with their baby, and how to prepare budget friendly nutritious meals for their baby and the entire family. Participants also had the opportunity to ask nutrition-related questions about infant and toddler feeding to a registered dietitian. Public Health will continue to collaborate with partners to meet the needs of families on Manitoulin Island.



