

Being Ready

Ensuring Public Health Preparedness for Infectious Outbreaks and
Pandemics

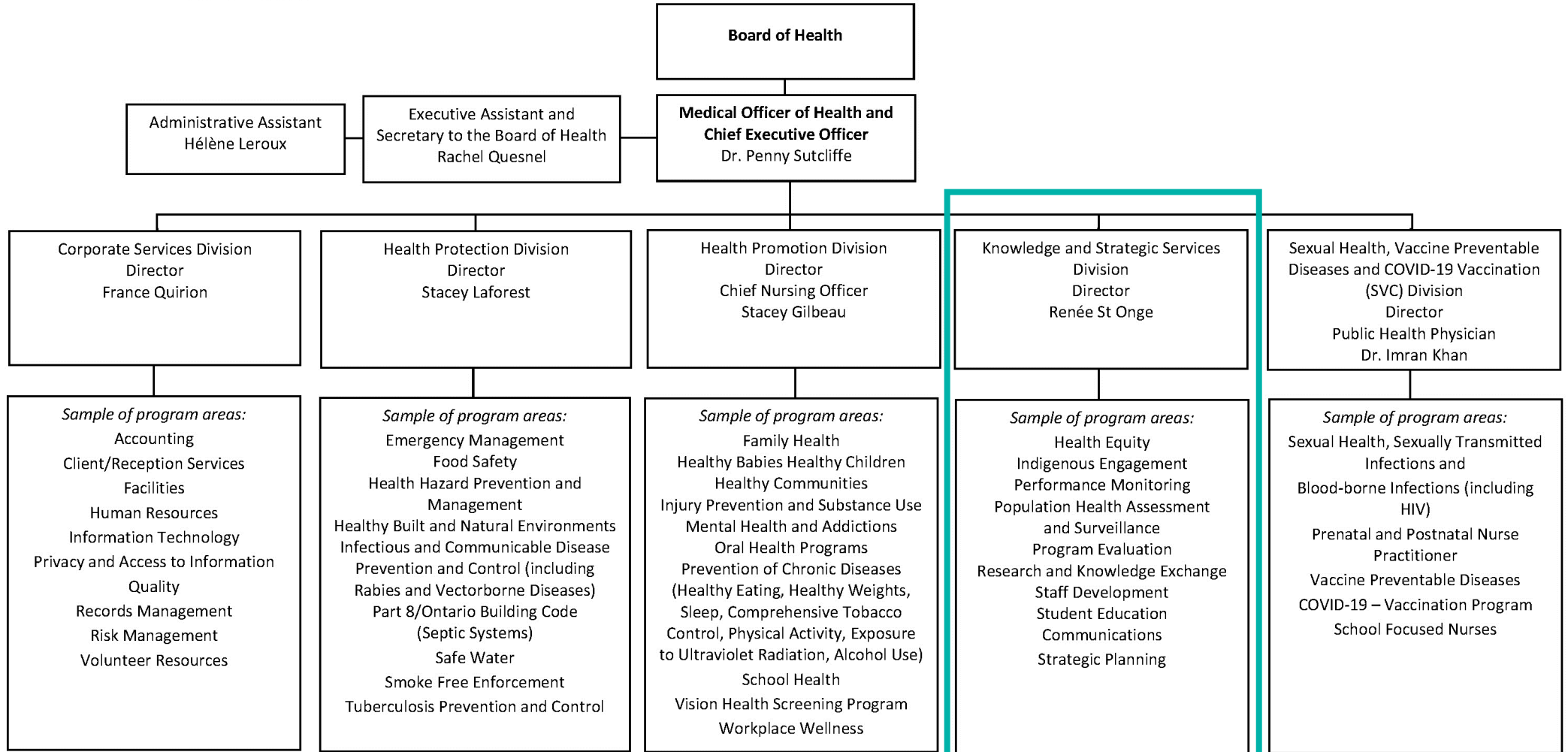
Presentation to the Board of Health

Nastassia McNair, Manager, Knowledge and Strategic Services

April 20, 2023

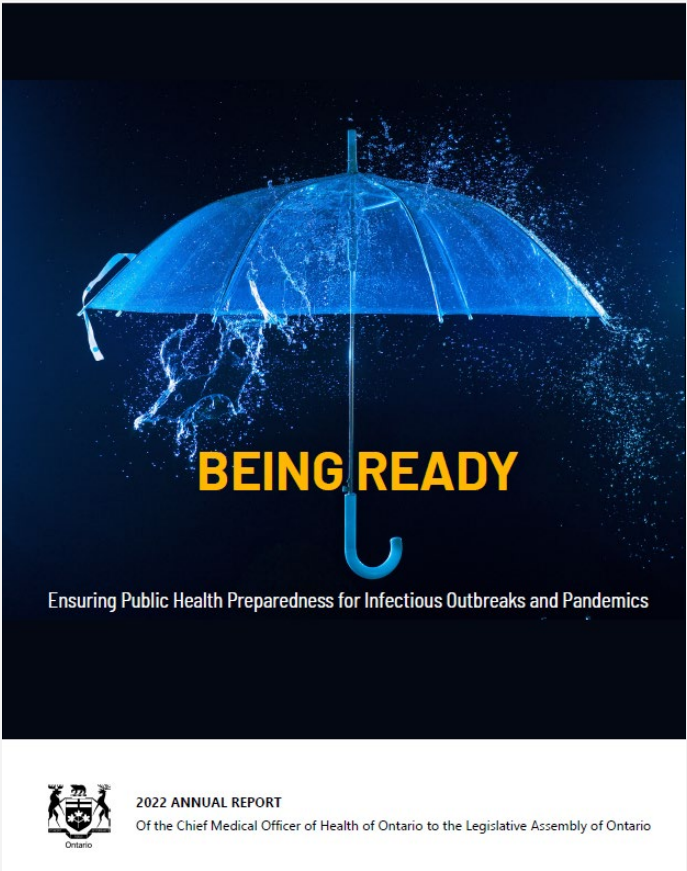


Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS



R: January 1, 2023

Being Ready: Ensuring Public Health Preparedness for Infectious Outbreaks and Pandemic



Preparedness is a process that requires sustained investment

1. It is more efficient and more effective to **invest in preparedness** than to pay the much higher and heavier costs of being unprepared: more illness and death, mental health problems, social disruption, and economic losses.
2. To enhance the province's preparedness and its capacity to respond to future outbreaks and pandemics, **Ontario must sustain its investments in public health** over time.

Introduction and Background

The Case for Sustained Investment in Outbreak Preparedness

There are social, ethical and financial reasons why Ontario must continue to invest in being prepared and more resilient in the face of outbreaks:

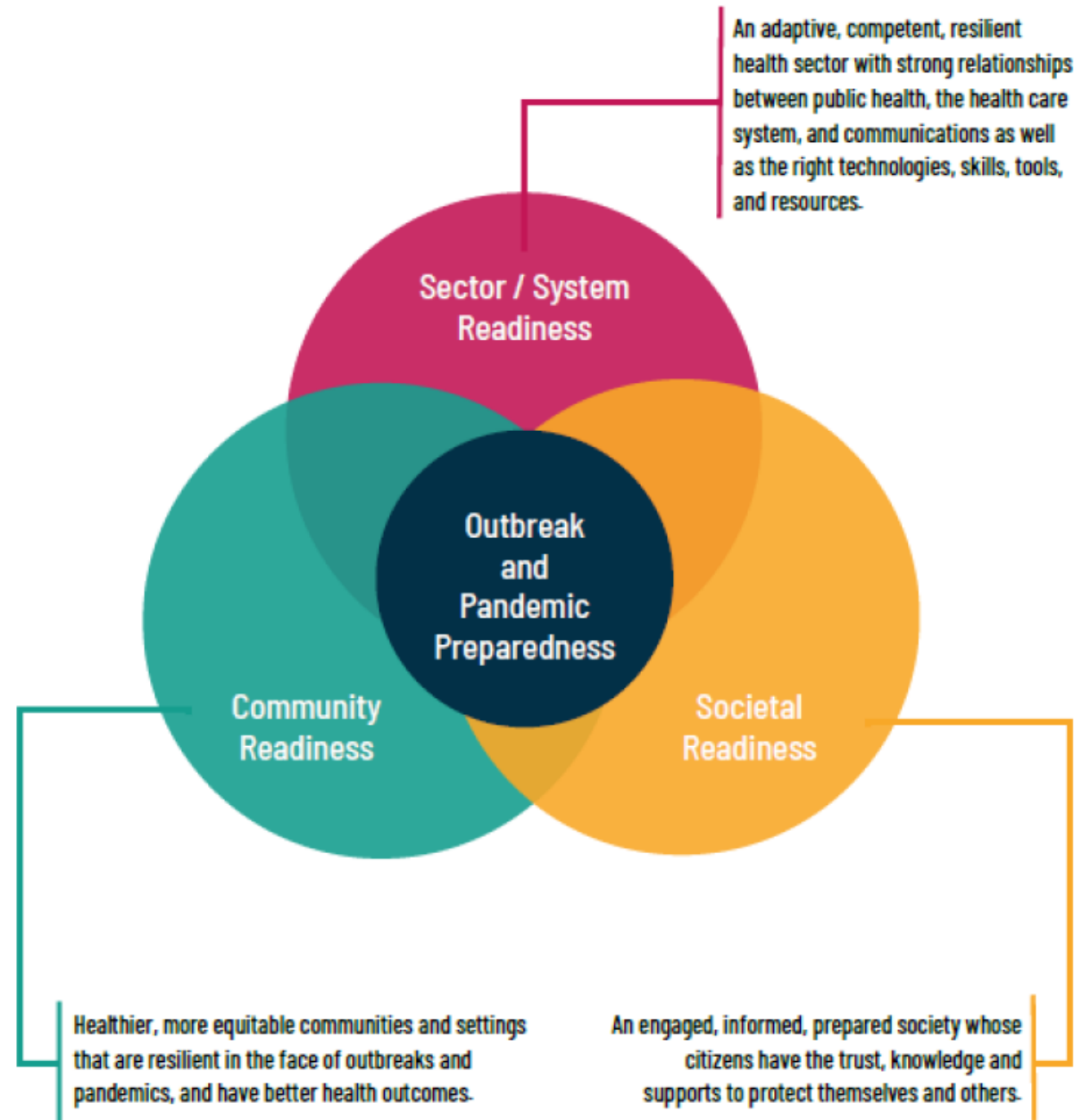
The risk of serious outbreaks and another pandemic is real and growing due to climate change, changing interactions with wildlife, global trade and travel, re-emergence of infections such as measles and polio, and the natural or deliberate release of bioengineered pathogens

The human and economic costs from the morbidity, mortality, mental health and social impacts of illness from pandemics and measures for controlling pandemics are too high

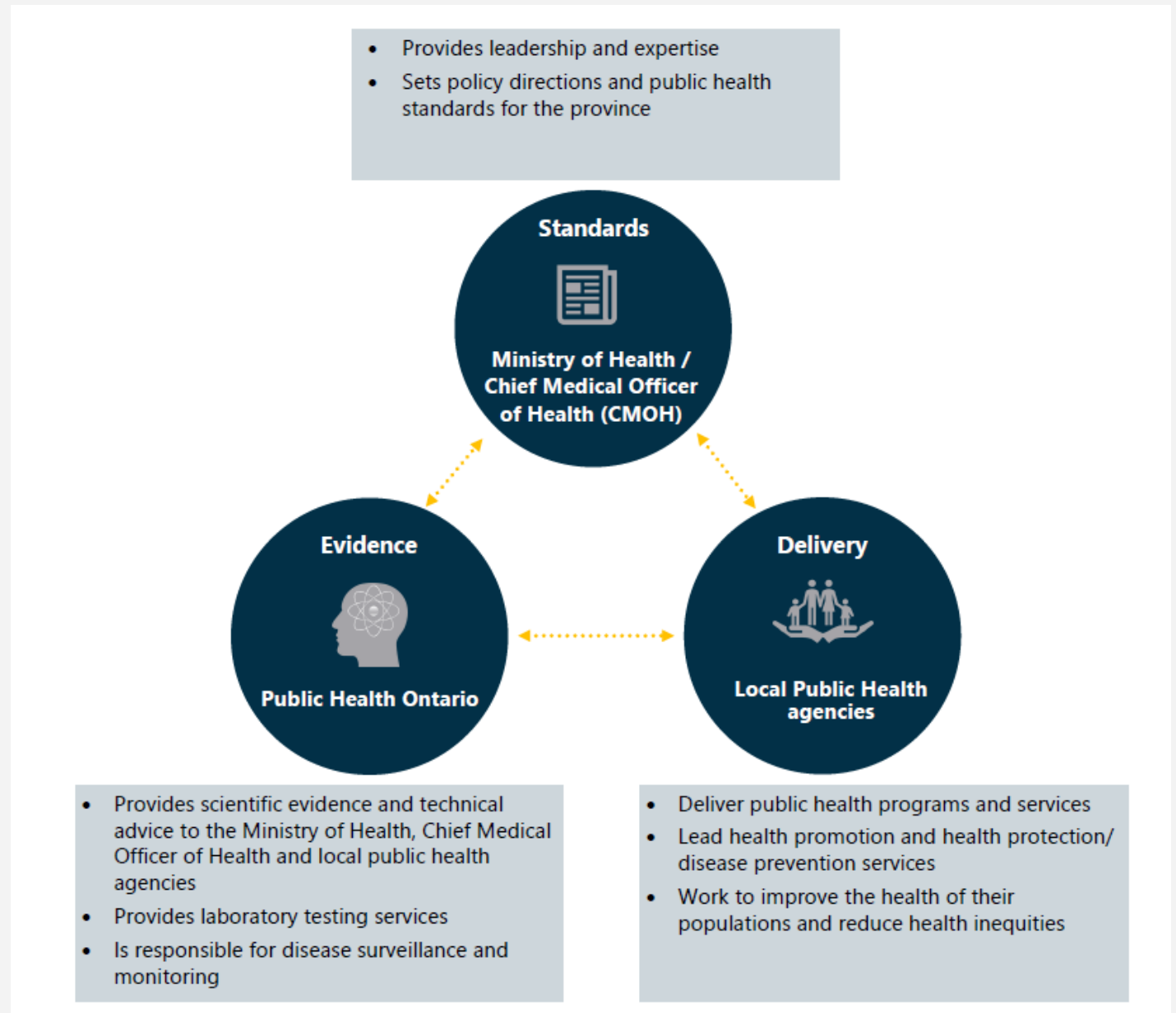
The burden disproportionately affects populations already facing health inequities, and pandemic responses work best when everyone is properly protected – if parts of society are left behind, the effectiveness of the response decreases for everyone

A Bigger Picture View of Readiness

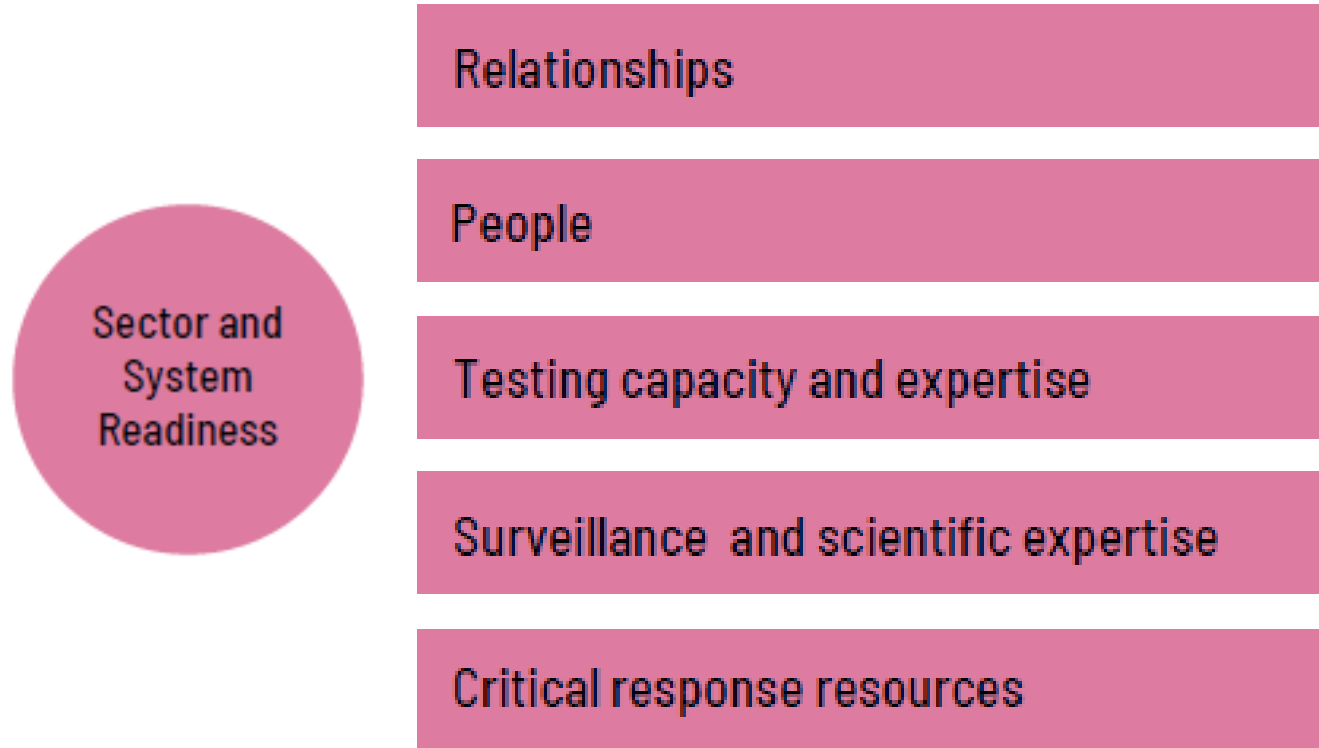
Ontario's public health sector must take a collective, forward-thinking approach to pandemic planning that builds:



Ontario's Public Health Sector



How to invest over the next 1 to 2 years?



Relevant Ontario Public Health Standards



Conduct emergency planning in co-ordination with community partners and governmental bodies, including co-ordination and management of emergencies or disruptions.

Engage in relationships with Indigenous communities in a way that is meaningful for them.

Support a culture of excellence in professional practice and ensure a culture of quality and continuous organizational self-improvement.

Interpret and use surveillance data to communicate information on risks to relevant audiences.

Conduct population health assessment and surveillance regarding infectious and communicable diseases and their determinants.

Conduct surveillance and epidemiological analysis, including the monitoring of trends over time, emerging trends, and priority populations.

Community Readiness

Community partnerships

Data to address inequities

Relevant Public Health Standards



If no lived experience from disruptions or emergencies has occurred in the past 3 years, practice in whole or in part emergency plans and 24/7 notification procedures every three years.

Apply a self-assessment process to emergency management. This process may be applied to tests, exercises, simulations, and/or emergency plan activations and agency responses.

Engage in multi-sectoral collaboration with municipalities and other relevant stakeholders in decreasing health inequities.

Engage with Indigenous communities and organizations, as well as with First Nation communities striving to reconcile jurisdictional issues, including fostering and creating meaningful relationships, starting with engagement through to collaborative partnerships.

Lead, support, and participate with other stakeholders in health equity analyses and policy development, and advance healthy public policies that decrease health inequities.

Assess and report on the health of local populations, describing the existence and impact of health inequities and identifying effective local strategies that decrease health inequities.

Use population health, social determinants of health, health inequities, and other sources of information to assess the needs of the local population, including identifying populations at risk of negative health outcomes, to determine the groups that would benefit most from public health programs and services.

Societal Readiness

Social trust and ethical preparedness

Clear and transparent communications

Relevant Ontario Public Health Standards



Ensure a culture of quality and continuous organizational self-improvement that underpins programs and services and public health practice, and demonstrates transparency and accountability to clients, the public, and other stakeholders.

Public health communication strategies reflect local needs and utilize a variety of communication modalities to ensure effective communication.

Use a variety of communication modalities, including social media, taking advantage of existing resources where possible, and complementing national/provincial health communications strategies.

CMOH Report: Moving forward

Next Steps

Ontario's public health sector is committed to ensuring all the expertise, tools and technologies are in place, actively engaging communities and society in pandemic preparedness

Preparedness is a process of continuous improvement – Ontario must sustain its investments in public health preparedness over time to be ready for infectious disease outbreaks and pandemics

Ensure accountability for outbreak preparedness and response by reviewing relevant **Ontario Public Health Standards**, including the Emergency Management Guideline

Continue to assess and report on the public health sector's **progress** in outbreak and pandemic preparedness in future CMOH reports

Improve the health of Indigenous Peoples by continuing to work with Indigenous leaders and health service providers, as well as federal partners

Improve the health of Black and other racialized populations and reducing **health inequities** including advancing race-based data to address systemic racism

Sustain relationships within the public health sector and the health sector

Public Health Sudbury & Districts: Moving forward

1. Advocate for the sustained and strengthened **investment** in local public health as responsible risk management and future cost* avoidance.
2. Focus on **workforce** well-being, capacity, and preparedness, including cross training, surge capacity, and business continuity, and ensuring capacity for all essential public health programs and services (including avoidable non-infectious diseases).
3. Intensify actions in support of **Indigenous reconciliation** and self-determination.
4. Re-energize work with and in support of priority populations to improve **racial** and **health equity** for all.
5. Continue with continuous quality improvement initiatives for **emergency preparedness and response** including exercises, tools and supports.
6. Continue to ensure **accountability and transparency**, and excellence in **communication**.

*physical, mental, social, economic costs

We are Public Health





Copyright ©

This presentation was prepared by Public Health Sudbury & Districts.

This resource may be reproduced, for educational purposes, on the condition that full credit is given to Public Health Sudbury & Districts.

This resource may not be reproduced or used for revenue generation purposes.

© 2023, Public Health Sudbury & Districts