

# MANAGING POSSIBLE EXPOSURES

Managing a potential exposure to communicable diseases requires a clear, systematic process to protect both emergency service workers and the public. This begins with prompt reporting of suspected exposures to the Designated Officer, followed by a thorough assessment of risk factors to determine risk and appropriate follow-up actions. Established notification protocols enable timely communication and compliance with public health requirements. The following sections outline each step in detail to support effective response and decision-making.

## Reporting a Potential Exposure to a Designated Officer

Emergency service workers must promptly report suspected exposure to communicable diseases to the Designated Officer. The [Incident Assessment Form](#) can be used to capture details including:

- Incident circumstances
- Type of exposure
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and breaches identified
- Precautions taken

## Assessing an Exposure to Communicable Diseases

- Type and duration of exposure
- Worker's immune status
- Use and integrity of PPE
- Contact with bodily fluids
- Other relevant factors

## QUESTIONS TO GUIDE EXPOSURE RISK ASSESSMENT

1. **Agent & Contact:** What was the quantity of the infectious agent and level of contact?
2. **Source:** Was there direct contact with the disease reservoir?
3. **Duration:** How long did the exposure last?
4. **Protection:** Was PPE used appropriately, and was it compromised?
5. **Susceptibility:** Is the worker vulnerable to infection?
6. **Transmission Route:** Was there a viable entry point for the disease?
7. **Additional Consideration:** Is the source individual known to be infected (if voluntarily disclosed)?

### Public Health

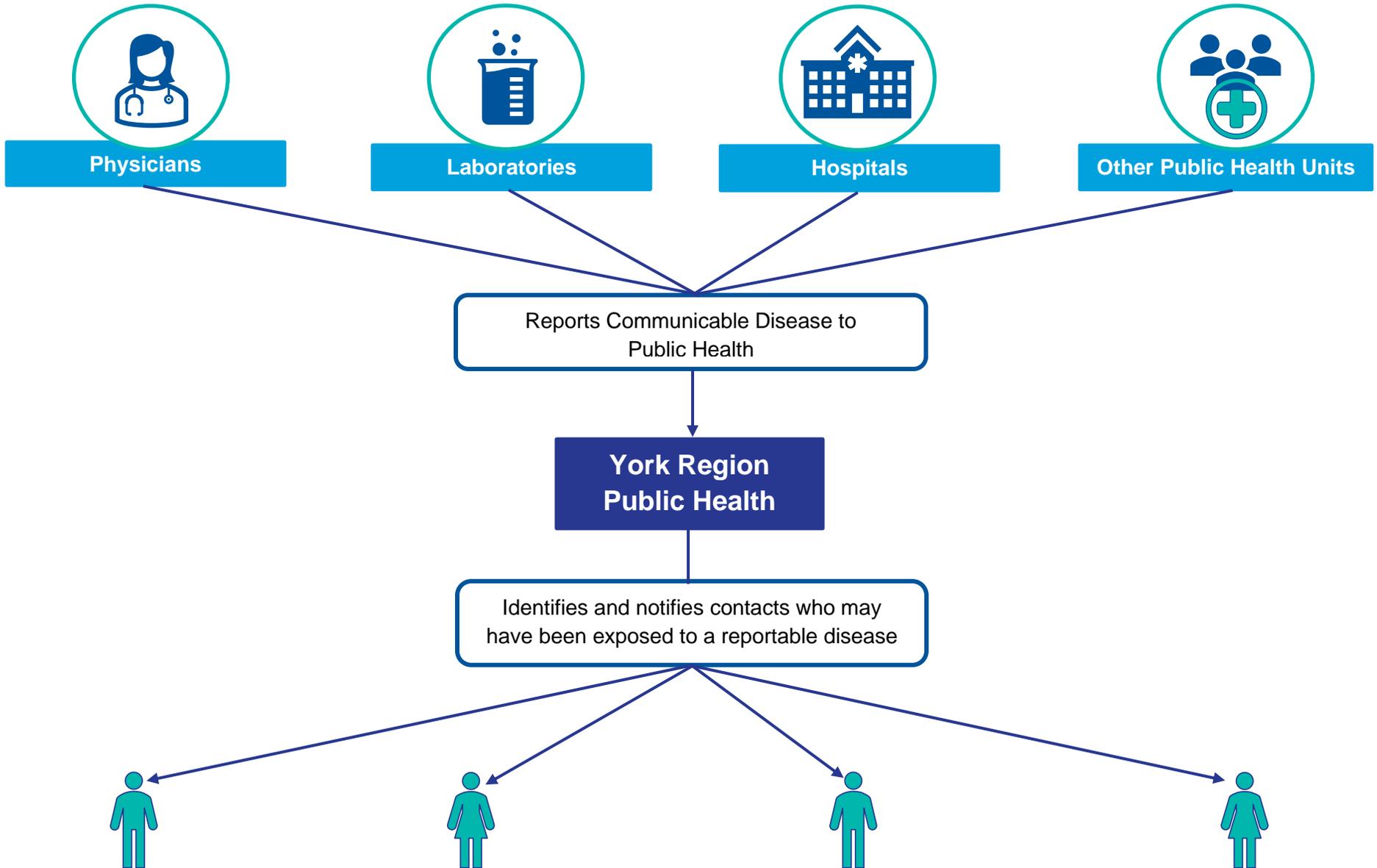
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## Notification Protocol 1: Initiated by Healthcare Partners



# Notification Protocol 2: Initiated by Emergency Service Worker



Emergency service worker has possible exposure

Reports exposure to Designated Officer



Designated Officer

Completes exposure risk assessment

No exposure

Potential exposure

Provides guidance to employee on disease prevention and educational resources as needed

Ensures emergency service worker seeks medical attention and notifies Public Health

York Region Public Health

No exposure

Potential exposure

Exposure is ruled out – no further action from York Region Public Health

Investigates possible exposure and informs Designated Officer of any follow-up or actions required