



The Regional Municipality of York strives to keep its residents healthy. Under the Medical Officer of Health, York Region Public Health professionals deliver a range of programs and services to prevent disease, protect the health and safety of residents and promote healthy lifestyles and environments.

As one of Ontario's 36 health units, York Region Public Health is directed by the *Ontario Public Health Standards*.

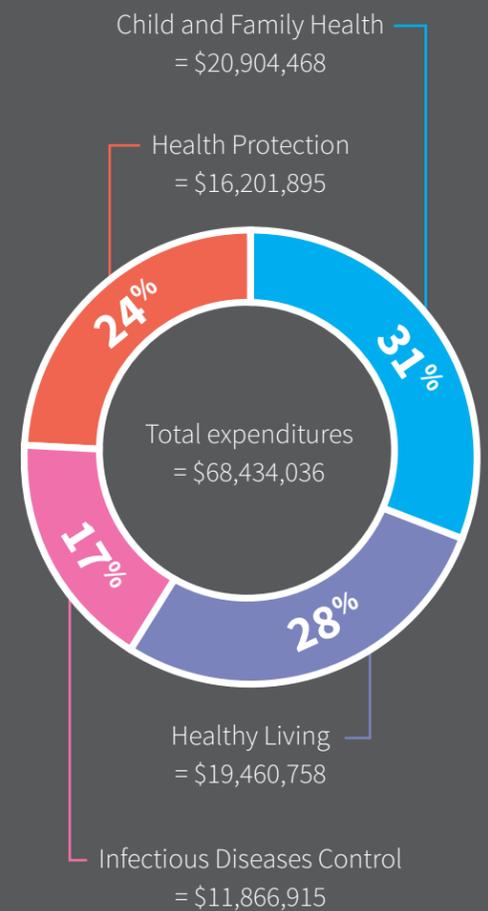
**Public Health's Main functions:**

- To assess and monitor the health of communities and populations at risk to identify health problems and priorities
- To formulate public policies designed to solve identified local and national health problems and priorities
- To assure that all populations have access to appropriate and cost-effective care, including health promotion and disease prevention services

Source: WHO Centre for Health Development. A glossary of terms for community health care and services for older persons [Internet]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2004 [cited 2016 Oct 3]. Available from: [who.int/kobe\\_centre/ageing/ahp\\_vol5\\_glossary.pdf](http://who.int/kobe_centre/ageing/ahp_vol5_glossary.pdf)

2015 Public Health Annual Report - Budget

In 2015, York Region Public Health's budget was \$68,434,036. Costs are shared by York Region and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MCYS), with the Ministry providing 75 percent of the funding for most programs. The Ministry of Youth and Children Services also funds 21% of the total Child and Family Health Division amount.



Note: the MCYS portion of CFH is 21% (\$4,401,635) of the total CFH amount

# Supporting healthy child development for expectant parents and families

The Child and Family Health division supports healthy child development from preconception to school transition. The division offers prenatal classes, breastfeeding clinics and support, parenting education and resilience building, and home visits through the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program. Registered Nurses call all mothers with a new baby in the first few days after hospital discharge to answer questions and provide support. In addition, the division provides dental screening for preventive or urgent treatment for children and youth including help in finding a dentist and applying for assistance with the cost of children's dental care.



**6,604**  
home visits to families following childbirth



**8,533**  
babies screened after birth for risk to healthy child development



**1,054**  
clients attended breastfeeding clinics



**1,469**  
children and youth who received preventive dental treatment in public health clinics



**2,435**  
parents/caregivers reached through mental health promotion programs



**1,640**  
expectant parents registered for prenatal education



**593**  
parents/caregivers reached through parenting programs



**12,517**  
children and youth identified needing dental care



**46,024**  
children and youth received dental screening

## Highlight

### Successful implementation of Oral Health Information Support System Mobile

In 2015, York Region Public Health launched Oral Health Information Support System (OHISS) Mobile, an electronic method of documenting oral health school screening results.

An OHISS committee created a training plan, supportive resources and a gradual approach implementation so that quality assurance measures could be used to ensure data quality. This process led to the planning for a launch of OHISS mobile for the 2015/2016 school year.

As of October 2015, York Region Public Health's Dental Program has successfully used OHISS Mobile to conduct oral health screening at all publicly funded elementary schools in York Region. OHISS Mobile has streamlined reporting processes and ensures data quality.

# Promoting and supporting health and wellness for children, youth, families and seniors

The Healthy Living division promotes healthy, safe and resilient communities through 18 distinct Public Health programs. The division focuses on health promotion, disease prevention, program surveillance and evaluation, health emergency planning, sexual health promotion and sexually transmitted and blood-borne infection follow-up.

**96** falls prevention consultations provided to senior-serving organizations



**6222** elementary-aged students attended injury prevention education sessions



**55%** of schools operated a student nutrition program



**27** sexual health workshops for community groups



**5,012** visits to sexual health clinics

**185** peer leaders trained to deliver peer-to-peer substance misuse prevention messaging in schools



**8,023** sexually transmitted infection/blood-borne infections cases investigated



**46%** of schools implemented comprehensive Healthy Schools programs/initiatives



**136**

health care and social services providers received best practice smoking cessation training to assist their clients to quit smoking



## Highlight

Stop on the Road workshop partnerships expanded

The Stop on the Road (SoR) workshops offered by York Region Public Health in collaboration with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, provide residents interested in quitting smoking no-cost nicotine replacement therapy and quit planning support.

In 2015, York Region Public Health delivered SoR to residents at two Blue Door Shelter locations. Shelter staff were provided training to support participants during the quitting process. Several participants chose quit dates that coincided with their shelter move-out and new home move-in dates, hoping to keep their new home smoke-free. Staff and participant evaluations were positive. York Region Public Health will seek out similar SoR collaborations with emergency and supportive housing agencies in the Region.

# Reducing the impact of infectious diseases

The Infectious Diseases Control division delivers programs and services to reduce the burden of infectious diseases and build capacity for disease prevention through health protection and promotion initiatives. The division investigates cases and outbreaks of reportable infectious diseases (not including sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections), conducts ongoing disease surveillance, manages the supply and distribution of publicly funded vaccines to community health care providers, provides school and community-based immunization clinics and enforces the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*.



**762,065** vaccine doses distributed to community health care providers and public health clinics (valued at over \$28.4 million)



Over **33,000** doses of vaccine administered by public health staff at over 830 school and community clinics



**49** confirmed tuberculosis cases and **646** contact investigations



**2,267** reportable disease case investigated (excluding sexually transmitted infections/blood-borne infections and tuberculosis) of which 73% met the disease-specific case definition



**693** vaccine storage and handling inspections



**49,107** requests sent to York Region residents for updated immunization information

## Highlight

### Functionality of Panorama maximized

In 2015, York Region Public Health took advantage of additional functionality available within Panorama, the province's central immunization information system, by implementing point-of-service data entry. York Region Public Health nurses updated students' electronic immunization records immediately following immunization using internet connections available at all school and community immunization clinics. Having immediate access to students' immunization records ensures students receive the correct vaccines at the correct time, avoiding under- or over-immunization.

York Region Public Health's Panorama Vaccine Inventory module was also implemented in 2015, enhancing Public Health's ability to track over \$27 million worth of publicly-funded vaccine orders annually, from the moment orders are received from community health care providers (such as physicians, hospitals and pharmacies) and Public Health clinics, to the point of distribution. This new functionality has helped improve the efficiency of the vaccine inventory program.

# Inspecting and monitoring places where we live, work and play

The Health Protection division delivers programs and services to reduce the incidence and spread of infectious diseases, food and water-borne illnesses and other environmental health hazards. Key strategies include education, monitoring, inspection, enforcement and policy development. Programs include food safety, rabies control, safe water, vector-borne diseases, infection prevention and control, health hazard prevention and management and tobacco/electronic cigarette education and control.

**120** indoor air quality inspections & investigations



**3,415** food handlers certified



**2,020** tobacco vendor inspections



**7** schools and **322** students participated in the 20/20 The Way to Clean Air program



**356** long-term care home and day care inspections



**1,582** inspections of pools, splash pads and spas



**1,336** personal services setting inspections



**20** active tick surveillance sessions



**1,020** animal exposure and rabies investigations



**125** rabies vaccine dispensed



**419,749** street and environmentally sensitive catch basins treated with larvicide to prevent the spread of mosquitoes which carry West Nile Disease



## Highlight

Mandatory Food Handler Certification bylaw approved

In September 2015, York Regional Council approved a Mandatory Food Handler Certification bylaw requiring all high and moderate-risk food premises in the Region to have:

- At least one owner/operator and one food handler with a current and valid food handler certificate
- One certified food handler present at all times during operations to supervise the processing, preparation, storage, handling, display, distribution, transportation, and/or sale of food

The bylaw will be phased in over three years and is meant to ensure food handlers understand the importance of food safety in preventing food-borne illnesses.

Enforcement of the bylaw will begin in January 2017 and non-compliance will be disclosed on YorkSafe, York Region Public Health's inspection reporting program.

**10,968** food premises inspections



# Public Health performance measures

The Province of Ontario has introduced Public Health Accountability Agreements to outline terms and conditions of funding and performance expectations for public health units. Accountability Agreement performance measures are common across all public health units, but targets vary according to performance baselines. York Region Public Health met or exceeded the following performance results:

% of population (19+) that exceeds the Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines	inspections completed for those that are due for re-inspection
Fall-related emergency visits in older adults aged 65+	% of public spas inspected while in operation
% of youth (ages 12 - 18) who have never smoked a whole cigarette	% of personal services settings inspected annually
% of tobacco vendors in compliance with youth access legislation at the time of last inspection	% of suspected rabies exposures reported with investigation initiated within one day of public health unit notification
% of secondary schools inspected once per year for compliance with section 10 of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA)	% of confirmed gonorrhoea cases where initiation of follow-up occurred within two business days
% tobacco retailers inspected for compliance with section 3 of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA)	% of confirmed iGAS cases where initiation of follow-up occurred on the same day as receipt of lab confirmation of a positive case
% tobacco retailers inspected for compliance with display, handling and promotion sections of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA)	% of salmonellosis cases where one or more risk factor(s) other than "Unknown" was entered into iPHIS
Oral health Assessment and Surveillance: % of schools screened	% of confirmed gonorrhoea cases treated according to recommended Ontario treatment guidelines
Oral health Assessment and Surveillance: % of all JK, SK and Grade 2 students screened in all publicly funded schools	% of HPV vaccine wasted that is stored/administered by the public health unit
Implementation status of NutriSTEP® Preschool Screen	% of refrigerators storing publicly funded vaccines that have received a completed routine annual cold chain inspection
Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFI) Status	% of school-aged children who have completed immunizations for hepatitis B
% of high-risk food premises inspected once every 4 months while in operation	% of school-aged children who have completed immunizations for HPV
% of moderate-risk food premises inspected once every 6 months while in operation	% of school-aged children who have completed immunizations for meningococcus
% of Class A pools inspected while in operation	
% of high-risk Small Drinking Water Systems (SDWS)	

## York Region Public Health had a variance for the following Performance Measure:

% of influenza vaccine wasted that is stored/administered by the PHU

**Explanation:** For the 2014/15 flu season, York Region Public Health (YRPH) continued to transition from providing community flu shot clinics towards ensuring health care providers, including doctors and pharmacists, have enough flu vaccines to administer to the public. Over the years, YRPH noted a declining interest in community flu shot clinics with residents preferring the convenience of being vaccinated by their doctor or local pharmacist. For the 2014/15 flu season, YRPH only offered one flu shot clinic, focusing efforts on vaccine supply chain management. Given low client turnout, some vials of opened, multidose flu vaccine were not used up and deemed wasted. To reduce future waste, YRPH will minimize the use of multidose vials when flu vaccination requests are low.

