

YORK REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

ACTIVITIES AND INNOVATIONS 2022





ABOUT YORK REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

York Region Public Health (Public Health) is the third largest of Ontario's 34 local public health units, and one of the healthiest!¹⁻² We serve York Region's nine municipalities with programs and services that prevent disease, promote health and improve wellbeing. The upstream approach of Public Health is the most cost-effective strategy to enhance community and individual health, reducing the costs and burden on acute health care.³ York Region Public Health supports its mandate by delivering 37 programs and services through its four divisions and foundational supports. Our four divisions are:

- Child and Family Health
- Healthy Living
- Healthy Protection
- Infectious Diseases and Control

Many Public Health programs were paused as Public Health led the response to the COVID-19 pandemic over three challenging years, while collectively working closely with many partners (for example, faith-based organizations, hospitals, local municipalities, Ontario Health Teams) who supported the efforts of the pandemic response across York Region. Additionally, during this time, Public Health responded to 98,531 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 4,958 confirmed and suspect outbreaks. York Region's efforts saved countless lives through Public Health's integrated case, contact and outbreak management, infection prevention and control measures, and its timely and effective communication and COVID-19 vaccination efforts. In 2021, Public Health vaccinated 1,209,506 people, including more than 90% of the Region's population; 512,520 people received boosters in 2022.

As Public Health moved into the recovery phase of the pandemic, it re-launched paused programs and developed innovative new strategies to connect and serve York Region residents and communities more efficiently and effectively under the leadership of York Regional Council, as Board of Health, which oversees and governs Public Health programs.

Public Health is led by a dedicated leadership team including a Medical Officer of Health, five Associate Medical Officers of Health, a General Manager and Chief Nursing Officer, and four Directors who support the divisions.

¹All-cause mortality snapshot. Public Health Ontario. Updated September 30, 2019. Accessed August 15, 2023.

²Overall health snapshot. Public Health Ontario. Updated May 12, 2023. Accessed August 15, 2023.

³Association of Local Public Health Agencies. Public Health Matters. A Business Case for Local Public Health. alPha. Accessed August 15, 2023.

*Data note: The number of people vaccinated by Public Health may include people who reside in other Public Health Units

York Region Public Health is pleased to share this first annual update since 2018, which offers a description of Public Health programs and highlights notable 2022 achievements.

FOUNDATIONAL BRANCH SUPPORTS

The goals of foundational supports are to assist divisions and programs to assess the health of the population and deliver equitable and effective public health interventions across the branch. The teams provide expert consultation and ensure programs use the best available tools and evidence to respond to the needs and emerging issues of York Region's population. Some of these foundational supports are centrally located within the Public Health branch, while others are embedded within divisions.

-  **Health Promotion:** Health promotion refers to efforts and strategies that improve individual and community wellbeing through empowering groups and individuals to make decisions that reduce their risk of illness. Health promotion teams provide leadership and support to divisional programs to plan and implement health promotion initiatives, including program planning and developing public communication plans and community engagement strategies. A branch level Health Promotion team focuses on building relationships and sharing information with health care professionals and organizations. Additionally, the team supports the development and coordination of other branch wide initiatives, including internal communications and engagement.
-  **Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI):** Provides divisions with consultation, training and resources to guide public health services and processes. CQI advises and collaborates with other teams to help them create and sustain a culture of continuous quality improvement and quality assurance using the best available evidence.
-  **Data and Analytics:** Provides specialized support to divisions in the areas of data acquisition and analysis, program evaluation and health promotion. This includes health data analysis for surveillance, and program planning to better understand at-risk populations and community needs. The team also helps programs plan, research, execute and evaluate health promotion and communication campaigns to effectively reach target populations.
-  **Epidemiology and Research:** Supports the branch, divisions and programs to use data and evidence to inform public health interventions. This includes providing and analyzing population health and surveillance data, acquiring and coordinating branch data sources (Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System, Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey, Canadian Community Health Survey) and other administrative databases. The program also leads the Internal Research Review Committee, Public Health Research Association and Knowledge Exchange Symposium.

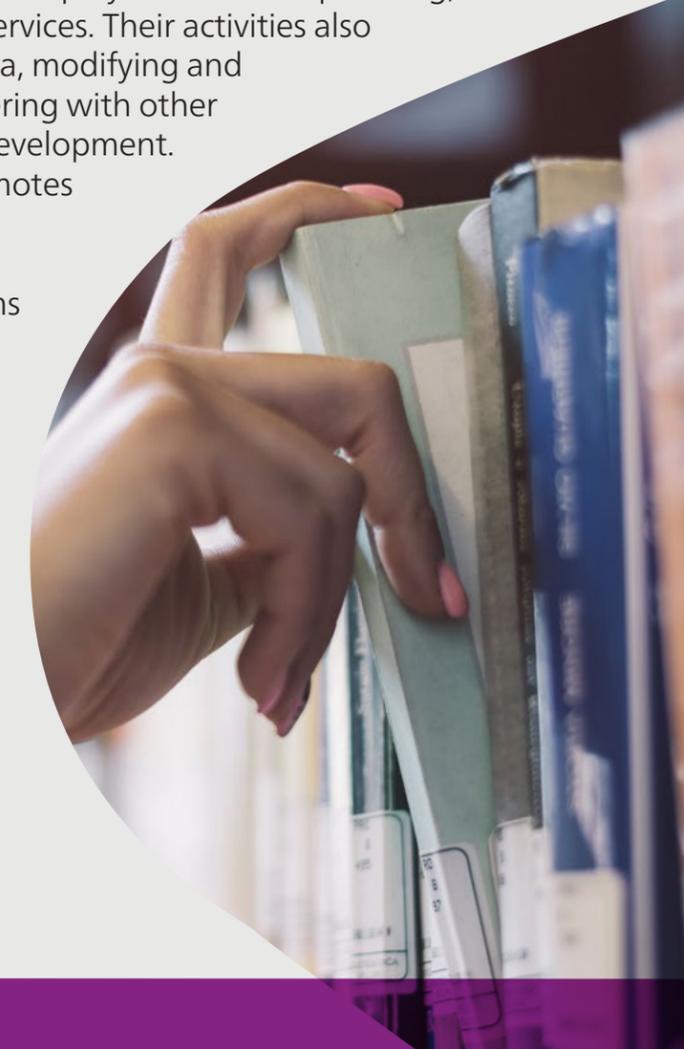




Health Equity: Health equity refers to the absence of unfair or avoidable differences in health among groups of people. The health equity team works to ensure that all people can reach their full health potential and are not disadvantaged from attaining it due to systemic or other unfair and socially determined factors including their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age or socioeconomic status. The teams provides consultation, training and resources for the Public Health branch and the Community and Health Services Department by applying social determinants of health and health equity lenses to the planning, implementation and evaluation of programs and services. Their activities also include the assessment and reporting of health data, modifying and orienting interventions to reduce inequities, partnering with other sectors, and participating in healthy public policy development. The team also monitors food affordability and promotes initiatives to address food insecurity.

Library Services: Offers support to ensure programs and policies are evidence-based and aligned with current best practices. In addition to conducting literature searches, library services provides referencing support for reports, presentations and manuscripts, and guidance on copyright compliance and permissions.

Nursing Practice: Implements strategic initiatives in the areas of nursing practice and quality assurance, leadership and professional development, and projects that enhance overall organizational effectiveness.



2022 INNOVATIONS AND SUCCESSES

- The central Health Promotion team relaunched Public Health Matters - Public Health's e-bulletin - that provides timely and critical information and resources on public health topics to family doctors, specialists, nurse practitioners and other health care professionals, and had been paused during the COVID-19 pandemic. Public Health Matters has now increased in frequency and implemented editorial changes that have earned accolades in building productive relationships with its audience. Visit york.ca/PublicHealthMatters to learn more.
- The Nursing Practice program implemented the first ever Public Health Women's International Day panel event, which showcased human-centered leadership approaches for creating an equitable work environment.



CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH

The Child and Family Health division supports healthy child development from pre-conception to school transition, and oral health for children, youth and seniors.

The Child and Family Health division's five program areas include:

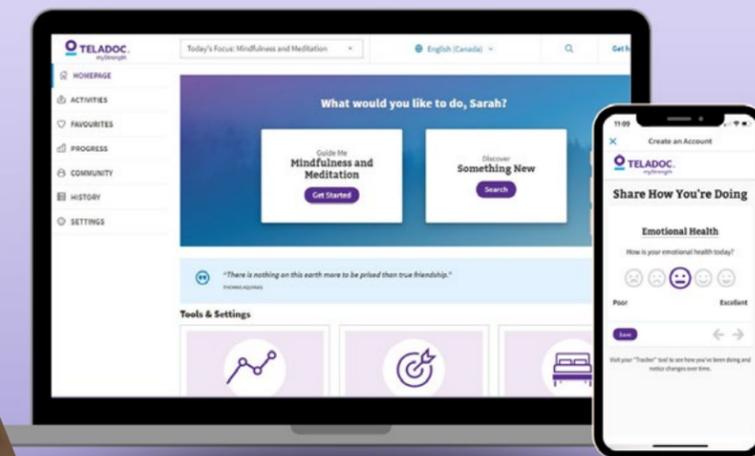
- 1. Children and Youth Dental:** Provides oral health screening for children and youth ages 0-17 years to identify urgent, restorative and preventive dental needs. Screening is provided in all York Region publicly funded elementary schools and Public Health dental clinics. The program also supports families with access to oral health care, which may include enrolling in the Healthy Smiles Ontario program. Depending on the care required, children of families in financial hardship may be eligible to receive preventive dental treatment at one of Public Health's dental clinics or restorative dental care by a dentist in the community.
- 2. Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC):** Provides eligible families with information, support and connections to community resources through a home visiting service. The program connects parents to a Public Health nurse and a family visitor. Social workers and dietitians offer additional supports for families as needed. HBHC offers support and services on parenting and child growth and development. The Nurse-Family Partnership program is an intensive, maternal and child health home visiting intervention specifically targeted to young (24 years of age or younger), pregnant (less than 29 weeks gestation), low-income women.
- 3. Health Connection – Child and Family Health:** Supports clients through telephone, live messaging (eChat), email, text messaging and video conferencing with questions or concerns about their own health, or that of their family, about preparing for pregnancy, prenatal health, breastfeeding, infant health, mental health, family violence, and parenting support for children up to school entry. The program reaches out to families who have been referred to the HBHC program prenatally, in postpartum, and in early childhood from hospitals, physician offices and other community partners. Registered nurses provide breastfeeding support, assess maternal mental health and make recommendations and referrals to internal and external programs to help clients adjust to parenthood.



- 4. Healthy Growth and Development:** Delivers health promotion interventions to help infants and children zero to six years of age achieve the healthiest possible start in life. By supporting and promoting optimal infant and young child nutrition, perinatal mental health, and healthy pregnancy, parenting and resilience building, children are provided a strong foundation that decreases adverse childhood experiences and improves lifelong physical and mental health.
- 5. Seniors Dental:** Provides dental services through the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP). OSDCP is an Ontario wide program that provides free dental care to eligible low-income seniors who are 65 years of age or older. Eligible clients are supported over the phone with program enrollment and OSDCP related questions, including oral health teaching and promotion. Dental care and treatment services are provided internally across four York Region dental clinics and through referral to community dentists, denturists and dental specialists.

2022 INNOVATIONS AND SUCCESSES

- The division developed innovative and successful interventions to improve mental health during pregnancy and early parenthood.
 - Partnered with Teladoc Health and community health care professionals and agencies to provide York Region residents access to a digital mental health and wellbeing service, myStrength, which supports individuals during pregnancy and early parenting
 - Developed a virtual, evidence-informed Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) group run by registered nurses
- The division maintained its designation in 2022 as a Best Practice Spotlight Organization with the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.
- The Children and Youth Dental and Seniors Dental teams resumed and expanded the promotion of oral health and dental treatment options through new sites and virtual options.
 - New dental clinics for eligible seniors and children opened at York Region's new building at 17150 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket and The Link in the Town of Georgina
 - 17,222 children and youth received oral health screening in 2022 virtually, in Public Health dental clinics and at 87 elementary schools
 - In 2022, 817 clients used the seniors dental program through 2,103 clinic appointments; approximately 599 clients were referred to external private practice dentists in the community for dental service and care
- The HBHC and Healthy Growth and Development teams developed hybrid service delivery models (with in-person and online options) to increase client choice and improve access. Of the 7,800 clients that were provided information or referred to one or more programs through the Health Connection program, 1,374 clients received infant feeding and breastfeeding support. Additionally, 406 clients accessed an in-person breastfeeding clinic appointment and 946 clients accessed virtual video conferencing breastfeeding support appointments in 2022.





HEALTHY LIVING

The Healthy Living division promotes and supports healthy living and resilient communities through its programs for children, youth, families and seniors. These programs include health promotion, disease prevention and harm reduction interventions, program surveillance and evaluation, health emergency planning, sexual health promotion, and follow-up for sexually transmitted and blood borne infections.

The Healthy Living division's nine program areas include:

- 1. Built Environment:** Provides support and consultation to community, municipal and regional groups on strategies to improve the health impacts of the built environment. Through internal and external partnerships, health promotion activities (presentations, workshops, displays, public outreach, tool development), and plan and policy review, the Built Environment team informs land use and community planning and design with the goal of creating healthy, complete, equitable and sustainable communities. The Built Environment program also promotes a healthy local sustainable food system that supports food security, food literacy and healthy food decisions.
- 2. Healthy Aging:** Provides adults 55 years of age and older tools and resources to promote health and independence with a focus on fall prevention. In partnership with senior-focused agencies, services are provided to older adults and health-care professionals that reflect education and awareness, capacity building and policy development based on current best practices.
- 3. Health Emergency Management:** Supports the Public Health branch's programs and services to prepare for, respond to, and recover from threats to public health or disruptions to public health programs and services. The program coordinates the development and maintenance of emergency plans, business continuity plans and guidelines for 24-7 notification procedures.
- 4. Injury Prevention:** Addresses fall prevention and concussion prevention and management with a focus on children and youth. This program provides consultation, education and print resources to partners and community members, including local school



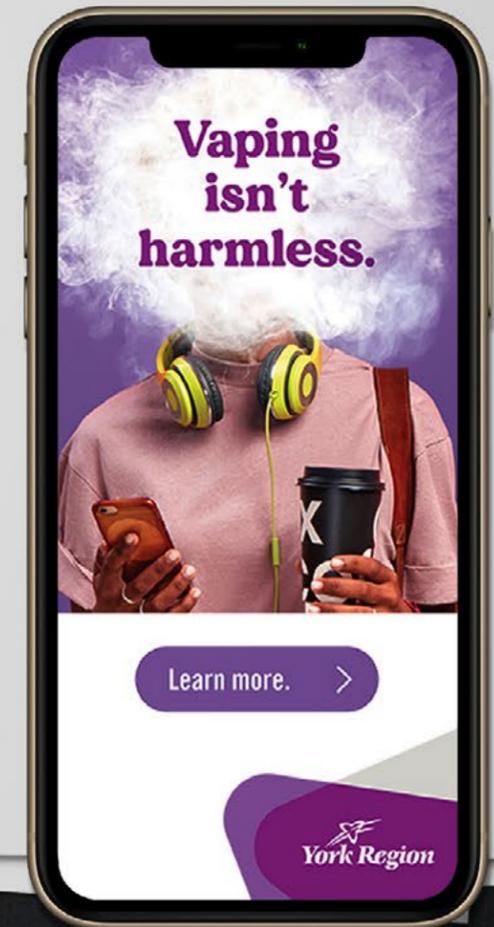


boards, parents, caregivers and students. The goal of the program is to create safe, supportive environments by raising awareness and educating York Region residents to gain the knowledge and skills needed to prevent unintentional injuries, fatalities and injury-related health inequities.

5. **School Services:** Provides support and resources to address priority health topics such as mental health, physical activity, nutrition and overall wellbeing. In collaboration with school boards, the program promotes curriculum-based teaching and learning, school and classroom leadership, student engagement, healthy social and physical environments, and home/school/community partnerships. Public Health nurses and dietitians provide consultation and resources to elementary and secondary school communities based on a comprehensive school health model.
6. **Sexual and Blood Borne Infections (SBI):** Offers confidential health teaching and follow-up for clients with sexually transmitted or blood borne infections. Public Health nurses provide support with connection to care, anonymous contact notification, education, resources and referrals to community agencies. The program connects with health care professionals to provide consultation, health care information and distribution of government funded sexually transmitted infection medications. Health promotion initiatives are also conducted within the community, including outreach to at-risk populations.
7. **Sexual Health Clinics:** Offers clinical services, including testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and testing for blood borne infections and Mpox (previously monkeypox). The clinics offer low-cost birth control, cervical cancer screening, intrauterine device (IUD) insertions, emergency contraception, vaccine administration (Gardasil 9, Hepatitis B/C, Mpox), HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and pregnancy counselling. Clinics also provide needle exchange and other harm reduction supplies and naloxone. Services are offered in outreach settings, clinic settings and virtually. Non-clinic services include sexual health promotion for community agencies and schools and the operation of a sexual health information and appointment line that provides one-to-one health information, referrals and appointment booking to the sexual health clinics.
8. **Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction (SUPHR):** Uses a health promotion, harm reduction and collaborative approach to increase awareness, knowledge and skills to strengthen community action. The program supports the development of healthy public policies to decrease the harms associated with alcohol, cannabis, opioids, and other substances of public health importance. Program activities include peer-to-peer youth programming, promotion of evidence-based guidelines on alcohol and cannabis use, distribution of naloxone and harm reduction equipment to community partners, monitoring drug overdoses, and reducing stigma and harms associated with opioids and other substances. The SUPHR team leads the Community Opioid and Drug Response Collaborative (CODRC) as well as the development, implementation and evaluation of York Region's Opioid Action Plan.
9. **Tobacco-Free Living:** Provides clients information and services about quitting commercial tobacco cigarettes and the health harms and risks of youth vaping. Smoking cessation services include promotion of the Smoking Cessation Care Pathway and offering direct services to fill gaps that exist in the community. To address youth vaping/tobacco use, the program promotes Canadian-based resources to help build custom plans to quit, co-designed with youth. The program also provides educational presentations, workshops, booths and train the trainer sessions in schools for students, teachers, parents and school boards.

2022 INNOVATIONS AND SUCCESSES

- The Healthy Living division initiated the Partner Engaged Assessment of Community Health (PEACH) project to better understand the health of York Region communities. Engaging health care professionals and community organizations on the health status and needs of communities to help inform Public Health programs.
- The Sexual Health Clinics program increased access to sexual health services by adding a virtual nurse clinic and running a campaign to promote the no-cost, safe and inclusive sexual health services offered at five locations across York Region. This included a targeted campaign for residents of Georgina about the services offered at The Link and the expansion of services to include HIV PrEP to protect individuals from contracting HIV. A total of 8,058 clients received sexual health services, including 229 through the virtual nurse clinic, 311 at the new Georgina clinic, and 76 for HIV PrEP. This surpassed the total number of client visits in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The School Services team re-envisioned the Healthy Schools program to promote the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of the whole school community. Integrated nutritionists developed more comprehensive topic coverage, realigned the geographic distribution of staff to reduce costs and time spent driving, and introduced French language nurses to meet the needs of the French Language Services Act. The Healthy Schools Program was delivered to 213 schools across four school boards. As a result of Public Health initiatives, 48% of participating schools reported an increase in student understanding of mental health.
- The Tobacco-Free Living program partnered with the Health Protection division to produce a multi-media campaign to raise awareness about the health risks associated with youth vaping. The campaign delivered more than 36 million impressions and generated more than 8,750 unique web page views, exceeding corporate benchmarks for engagement. As a result, Public Health has seen a marked increase for in-service and information requests related to youth vaping from schools and school boards.
- The Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction program, in partnership with York Region Police (YRP), set up a pilot program with support from the Ontario Naloxone Program within the Ministry of Health to address the ongoing drug poisoning crisis. The program involved community distribution of life-saving naloxone by YRP with support and training provided by Public Health. Public Health presented information on harm reduction, stigma and the pilot project to more than 60 officers. Twenty-seven officers were trained on naloxone distribution and 28 naloxone kits were distributed to the community.





HEALTH PROTECTION

The Health Protection division inspects and monitors places where we work, live and play. The division delivers programs and services to reduce the incidence and spread of infectious diseases, food and waterborne illnesses and other environmental health hazards. Key strategies include education, surveillance, inspection, enforcement and policy development.

The Health Protection division's nine program areas include:

- 1. Food Safety:** Conducts inspections of food premises to mitigate potential health hazards by enforcing the Food Premises Regulation under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. The program also responds to food premise complaints, investigates suspect foodborne illnesses, promotes and provides food handler certification training to vulnerable populations and ensures that food recalls are effective.
- 2. Health Connection – Health Protection:** Assesses risk and provides Health Protection programming, education/direction to clients through Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) in the division's contact centre on topics such as food safety, safe water, rabies, West Nile Virus, Lyme Disease, Avian Influenza, healthy environments, Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures (in childcare settings, personal service settings, long-term care homes, retirement homes, group homes and other congregate living settings), YorkSafe inspection disclosure system and tobacco, including electronic cigarettes.
- 3. Healthy Environments:** Mitigates impacts from environmental health risks through activities such as inspection of ice arenas to assess indoor air quality, notifying stakeholders of air quality events and educating the public on ways to stay safe during extreme heat and cold events. The program supports the creation of healthy communities by providing comments on land use planning applications, and investigating complaints of indoor and outdoor air quality, mould, sewage, spills and other environmental exposures. The program also supports evidence-informed practice by reviewing and conducting research on environmental health topics including urban heat islands, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and electric and magnetic fields (EMFs). Climate change remains a priority focus area with ongoing work related to surveillance, research, education and adaptation planning to reduce health impacts to residents.





4. Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC): Conducts IPAC compliance inspections in more than 2,400 settings annually to protect York Region residents and on-site response to IPAC related complaints in various public settings, as well as on location investigation of respiratory and enteric outbreaks in institutional and community settings. Work is completed in many different premises, such as personal service settings (nail/hair salons, tattoo parlours, esthetic spas, medispas), hospitals, long-term care and retirement homes, congregate living settings (group homes, lodging homes, shelters), child care settings, recreational camps, before and after school programs, and funeral homes.

In addition, IPAC professionals support the sharing of IPAC best practices with community partners, service professionals and the public through participation on various internal and external committees, interactive consultation with community partners, dissemination of educational resources, and the development of IPAC public awareness campaigns and training programs.

5. International Farm Workers: Inspects housing accommodations for international farm workers annually to ensure accommodations are safe and comply with public health legislation, including safe drinking water.

6. Safe Water: Inspects recreational facilities (such as public pools, hot tubs, splash pads, water slides, receiving basins and wading pools) to prevent and reduce the number of waterborne illnesses and injuries. The program also monitors water quality at public beaches and communicates risk to the public when beaches are unsafe for swimming. The program investigates and responds to adverse water quality events and reports of blue-green algae blooms and complaints, and inspects and conducts risk assessments of all small drinking water systems that can be found in public facilities (such as restaurants, hotels, motels or seasonal trailer parks).

7. Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Control: Ensures compliance with the Provincial Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 (SFOA) by conducting inspections and investigations into youth access restrictions on the sale of tobacco and e-cigarette products to those under 19. The program also ensures compliance with smoke-free requirements in all public places and workplaces (tobacco/vape/cannabis) and issues charges for non-compliance, where deemed appropriate.

8. YorkSafe: Manages the public web page used to disclose Health Protection division inspection/investigation findings. Clients can use the site to review pool, restaurant, small drinking water, splash pad, personal service settings and childcare centre inspection reports.

9. Zoonotic Diseases: Helps prevent and control the risk of diseases from animals and insects to people living and working in York Region with a current focus on rabies, West Nile Virus, Lyme Disease and emerging mosquito and tick-borne diseases.

2022 INNOVATIONS AND SUCCESSES

- The Food Safety team strengthened relationships with food operators in York Region following decreased inspection frequency during the pandemic response. The program created an online portal and web page for restaurant owners and operators to improve the user experience, increase access to public health services and achieve program efficiencies. Public Health Inspectors provided 2,602 food premises with resource packages during inspection visits and shared food safety messages with 5,122 operators.
- The Food Safety team collaborated with the Infectious Diseases Control division to lead the investigation and response to the largest cluster of aconite poisoning in Canadian history. Public Health Inspectors identified the source of the toxin and acted quickly to remove the product from retail outlets, identify the distributor, share information with partners and the public, and successfully prevent further poisonings.
- The IPAC and International Farm Workers programs protected vulnerable residents through IPAC Outbreak Preparedness Audits in long-term care homes, retirement homes, and other congregate living settings, and International Agricultural Worker accommodations in local farms. The program conducted 113 proactive congregate living setting audits and 48 farm spot checks to assess facilities' preparedness for outbreaks and provide education and support.
- The Zoonotic Diseases team improved the user experience, reduced the risk of privacy breaches and achieved program efficiencies by creating an Online Reporting of Animal Exposures portal. Since the portal's implementation there has been an increase in client's first contact resolution and a decrease in staff documentation time.





INFECTIOUS DISEASES CONTROL

The Infectious Diseases Control division (IDC) is a multidisciplinary team that delivers programs and services to reduce the burden of infectious diseases and build capacity for disease prevention through health protection and promotion initiatives. IDC activities include surveillance, investigation, vaccination and health promotion.

The Infectious Disease Control division programs include:

- 1. Control of Infectious Diseases (CID):** Investigates and manages cases, contacts and outbreaks of diseases of public health significance to prevent and reduce the burden of infectious diseases in York Region. The program provides education on prevention, treatment and control of infectious diseases to clients, including York Region residents and visitors, health care professionals and institutional (long-term care homes, retirement homes, congregate living settings, schools, daycares, hospice homes, shelters, hospitals) and workplace settings located within York Region.
- 2. Data Management and Technical Support:** Supports infectious diseases programs and services through technical support, resource development and training of various provincial and local public health applications for Public Health staff and external end users (health care professionals, retirement home and LTC COVax users). The program also manages and coordinates data and immunization records for the Immunization of Student Pupils Act, Child Care and Early Years Act and immunization clinics, with a focus on ensuring children in York Region are protected against vaccine preventable infectious diseases. The program processes lab reports and other notifications for diseases of public health significance to ensure timely case investigation by the CID, Tuberculosis and SBBI teams.
- 3. Surveillance, Education and Continuous Quality Improvement:** Provides evidence-informed surveillance, data and communications products to inform decision making and influence behaviour to reduce the burden of infectious diseases in York Region. The program focuses on infectious disease surveillance and analysis and monitors





the impact of diseases and public health control measures for case, contact and outbreak management. Health promotion, health education and continuous quality improvement supports influence behaviour related to infectious diseases and improve service delivery in the division.

- 4. Tuberculosis Prevention and Control (TB):** Provides services that prevent the transmission and minimize the burden of TB in York Region. Activities include case management of individuals with suspected or confirmed TB, identification and counselling for individuals who are at risk for TB, and notification of individuals who may have been exposed to an infectious case of TB (contact management). The program offers in-person and virtual Direct Observation Therapy (DOT) to ensure client compliance with medication, and tuberculin in-home skin testing for clients who do not have access to a health care professional.
- 5. Vaccine Inventory:** Provides for the efficient and equitable distribution of publicly funded vaccines, ensuring safe vaccine storage and handling practices, and effective inventory management and logistics to minimize vaccine wastage. The program is responsible for storage, inventory and distribution of publicly funded vaccines and related products to public health clinics, hospitals, institutions (long-term care and retirement homes), physician offices and some pharmacies. It also completes cold chain maintenance inspections and issues resolution for all vaccine storage units within these settings.
- 6. Vaccine Preventable Diseases - COVID-19:** Provides COVID-19 vaccine information and clinical access to the public in York Region to maximize coverage and reduce the burden of COVID-19. Services include five community vaccination clinics within York Regional buildings, pop-up clinics targeting specific communities or groups, in-home vaccination to individuals unable to attend a clinic (such as homebound seniors) and vaccination in long-term care, retirement homes and congregate living settings.
- 7. Vaccine Preventable Diseases - Vaccination Clinics:** Provides school and community immunization clinics for publicly funded vaccines, and promotion of student vaccination. The program ensures that all students are up to date with required vaccinations through enforcement of the Immunization of School Pupils Act, with the goal of maximizing childhood immunization coverage and reducing the burden of vaccine preventable diseases in York Region. The team also investigates reports of Adverse Events Following Immunizations and operates a vaccine information phone line to address inquiries from the public and health care professionals.

2022 INNOVATIONS AND SUCCESSES

- The division effectively responded to a global Mpox outbreak through outreach to the gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) community. The response involved working closely with community organizations such as the Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance to raise awareness and protect the health of the community through health promotion and vaccination.
- The Control of Infectious Diseases team, in collaboration with the Health Protection division, worked with York Region long-term care homes and retirement homes to protect their staff and residents during the fall respiratory season. This included educational sessions, preparedness checklists and tailored support.
- The Tuberculosis Prevention and Control program launched the Virtual Direct Observation Therapy (vDOT) counselling and medication management for TB patients services to improve the client experience and program efficiency.
- The Vaccine Preventable Disease/Vaccination Clinics program, with support from the Vaccine Inventory team, successfully filled the pandemic related gaps in routine immunizations through focusing on the student community and school catch-up clinics. A promotional campaign included letters, social media and media interviews, supported by a new electronic consent form to optimize the experience for students and their families and achieve program efficiencies. The team administered 67,098 vaccines through 661 community and school catch-up clinics.



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