Protecting and Promoting the Health of Ontarians

Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability

The Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability are published as the public health standards for the provision of mandatory health programs and services by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, pursuant to Section 7 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

Effective: January 1, 2018

Revised: July 1, 2018



Strengthened Accountability



Strengthened Accountability

Public Health Accountability Framework

The **Public Health Accountability Framework** (Figure 5) outlines the parameters and requirements to hold boards of health accountable for the work they do, how they do it, and the results achieved. It articulates the expectations of the ministry of boards of health to promote a transparent and effective accountability relationship. Enhanced accountability supports the implementation of public health programs and services by ensuring boards of health have the necessary foundations related to the delivery of programs and services, financial management, governance, and public health practice. It also supports a strong public health sector that can provide evidence of the value of public health and its contribution to population health outcomes leading to better health for Ontarians.

The Organizational Requirements specify the requirements where monitoring and/or reporting are required of boards of health to demonstrate accountability to the ministry. They are organized according to the following four domains of the accountability framework:

- Delivery of Programs and Services;
- Fiduciary Requirements;
- Good Governance and Management Practices; and
- Public Health Practice.

Figure 5: Public Health Accountability Framework

The Accountability Framework is composed of four Domains					
Domain	Delivery of Programs and Services	Fiduciary Requirements	Good Governance and Management Practices	Public Health Practice	
Objectives of Domain	Boards of health will be held accountable for the delivery of public health programs and services and achieving program outcomes in accordance with ministry published standards, protocols, and guidelines.	Boards of health will be held accountable for using ministry funding efficiently for its intended purpose.		Boards of health will be held accountable for achieving a high standard and quality of practice in the delivery of public health programs and services.	
Organizational Requirements incorporate one or more of the following functions: Monitoring and reporting Continuous quality improvement Performance improvement Requirements for Boards of Health			The Accountability Framework is supported by:		
		Accountability Documents	 Organizational Requirements: Set out requirements against which boards of health will be held accountable across all four domains. Ministry-Board of Health Accountability Agreement: Establishes key operational and funding requirements for boards of health. 		
		Planning Documents	 Board of Health Strategic Plan: Sets out the 3 to 5 year local vision, priorities and strategic directions for the board of health. Board of Health Annual Service Plan and Budget Submission: Outlines how the board of health will operationalize the strategic directions and priorities in its strategic plan in accordance with the Standards. 		
	Compliance		 Performance Reports: Boards of health provide to the ministry regular performance reports (programmatic and financial) on program achievements, finances, and local challenges/issues in meeting outcomes. Annual Report: Boards of health provide to the ministry a report after year-end on the affairs and operations, including how they are performing on requirements (programmatic and financial), delivering quality public health programs and services, practicing good governance, and complying with various legislative requirements. 		

Organizational Requirements incorporate one or more of the following functions:

- Monitoring and reporting to measure the activities and achievements of boards
 of health and assess the results (to demonstrate value and contribution of public
 health);
- Continuous quality improvement to encourage changes in processes, address identified problems, and improve efficiency and effectiveness;
- Performance improvement to ensure boards of health achieve the best results possible and contribute to local, provincial, and population health outcomes;
- **Financial management** to ensure that resources are used efficiently and in line with local and provincial requirements; and
- **Compliance** to ensure boards of health meet ministry expectations for required activities articulated in legislation, standards, funding agreements, and policies.

Accountability across the domains is demonstrated through accountability, planning, and reporting tools, including: Ministry-Board of Health Accountability Agreements; Board of Health Strategic Plan; Board of Health Annual Service Plan and Budget Submission; performance and other ad hoc reports; and an annual report. These tools enable boards of health to demonstrate that they comply with all legal requirements and provide appropriate oversight for public funding and resources. They also support the achievement of a high standard and quality of public health practice and good governance and management practices that provide the foundation for the effective delivery of public health programs and service. Furthermore, they demonstrate the value that Ontarians receive for the funding invested in public health, and how that investment contributes to population health outcomes for all Ontarians.