



# PUBLIC HEALTH 2025 UPDATES AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

Presented to  
Committee of the Whole

Presented by  
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Medical Officer of Health

Presented on  
May 7, 2026



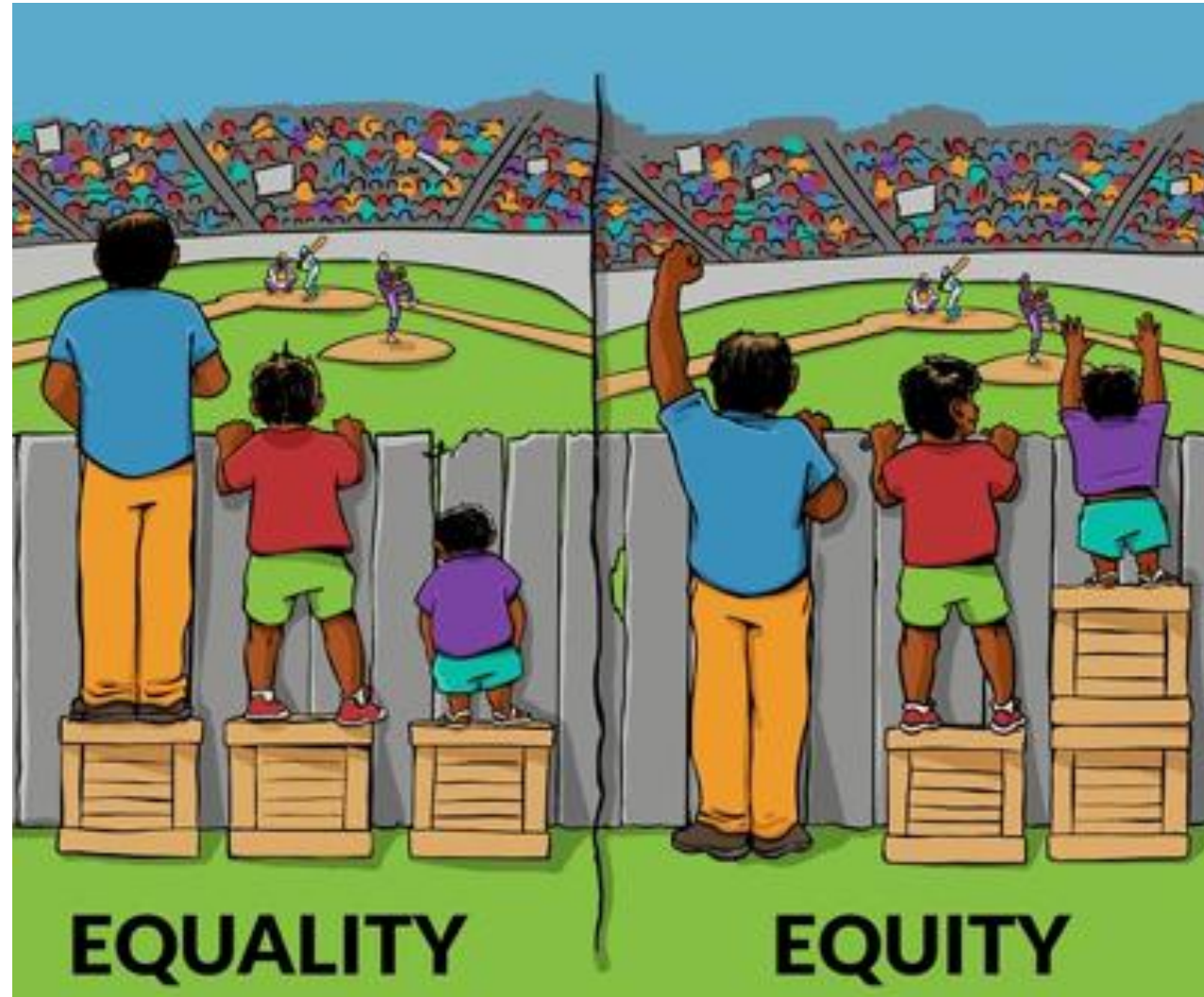
# Purpose

- 1. Improving Health for All**
- 2. Public Health in Action:**  
Six Core Functions and  
2025 Operational Highlights
- 3. Future of Public Health:**  
Direction and Priorities
- 4. Recommendation**



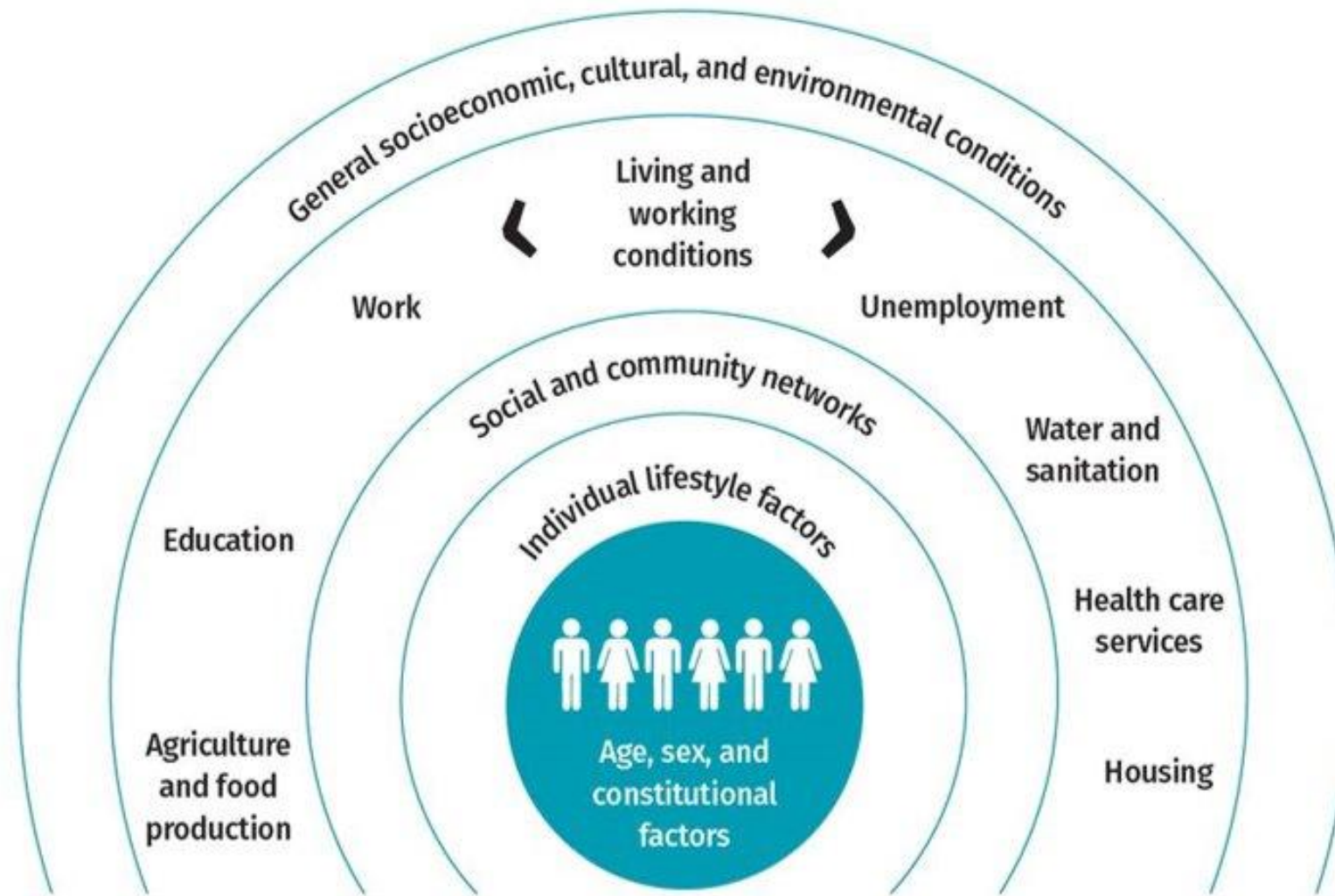
**IMPROVING HEALTH FOR ALL**

# A Population Health Approach Includes a Strong Focus on Health Equity



Equity vs Equality by Angus Maguire. Available from: <https://interactioninstitute.org/illustrating-equality-vs-equity/> Licensed under [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

# A Population Health Approach Means Working Across Sectors to Address the Determinants of Health



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The background is a solid blue color with several large, overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in various shades of blue, creating a layered, geometric effect. The shapes are primarily triangular and quadrilateral, with some rounded corners. They are arranged in a way that they appear to be floating or overlapping each other, creating a sense of depth and movement.

**PUBLIC HEALTH IN ACTION:  
SIX CORE FUNCTIONS AND 2025 OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

# Public Health in Action: Six Core Functions for a Healthier Population



## Population Health Assessment

[Understanding the Health of People in York Region](#), an interactive dashboard offering a snapshot of health across our communities



## Health Surveillance

Tracking and informing on respiratory disease trends in York Region using dashboards, e.g., [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#), [Integrated Respiratory Diseases](#), [Institutional Outbreak Summary Dashboard](#)



## Health Promotion

**Community Approach Working Group's Markham Youth Voice project** empowers youth aged 14 to 17 to address health issues that matter to them

# Public Health in Action: Six Core Functions for a Healthier Population



## Disease and Injury Prevention

Launch of **GetaKit**, a program offering 24/7, self-serve options for residents to complete sexually transmitted infection testing at home



## Health Protection

**Keeping It Cool** - a project to ensure seniors' preparedness for heat-related health impacts



## Emergency Preparedness and Response

**2025 Measles Response Plan** was activated due to an unprecedented measles outbreak in Ontario and York Region

# 2025 Operational Highlights



**40,866**

students received dental screenings at school during the 2024-2025 school year

**34,455**

health inspections and investigations completed



**73,864**

vaccines administered by Public Health



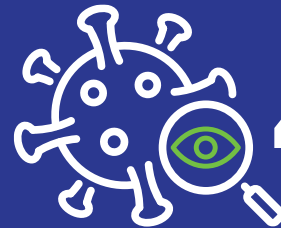
**13**

confirmed measles cases reviewed locally and over



**2,700**

contact investigations



**4,333**

cases of diseases of public health significance investigated



**18,529**

tests to screen high risk individuals for sexually transmitted and blood borne infections

# Individual Level Preventive Interventions Remain Critical

**Healthy Babies**  
**Healthy Children Program**  
A Client Testimonial

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# FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH: DIRECTION AND PRIORITIES

# A Future that is Sustainable and Impactful



- Align work with burden of disease
- Use local data and evidence to guide programs/services
- Increase focus on equity and the social determinants of health
- Centre work in the community
- Strategic engagement in preventive clinical care
- Combat misinformation and disinformation
- Leverage Regional partnerships to collectively address 'wicked problems'

# Priorities for 2026 and Beyond

## HEALTH EQUITY

Build relationships with Indigenous and Black communities

## MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION

Expand work on mental health promotion and broader system advocacy

## OPIOIDS

Reduce harms associated with the toxic drug supply

## VACCINE PROMOTION

Administer seasonal vaccines to vulnerable groups; develop a vaccine hesitancy strategy

## FURTHERING A 'HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES' APPROACH

Partner with municipalities to support the development of healthy public policies

**RECOMMENDATION**

# Recommendation

1. The Regional Clerk circulates this report and Attachment 1 to Ontario's Minister of Health, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Clerks of the local municipalities, York Region's Human Services Planning Board, and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies.

# Discussion/Questions

For more information please contact:

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