

# Qualifications for Public Health Professionals Protocol, 2018

Population and Public Health Division,  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

**Effective: January 1, 2018 or upon date of release**

## Preamble

The Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability (Standards) are published by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care under the authority of section 7 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA) to specify the mandatory health programs and services provided by boards of health.<sup>1,2</sup> The Standards identify the minimum expectations for public health programs and services. Boards of health are accountable for implementing the Standards including the protocols and guidelines that are referenced in the Standards. Protocols are program and topic-specific documents incorporated into the Standards which provide direction on how boards of health shall operationalize specific requirement(s) identified within the Standards.

## Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to provide direction to boards of health with respect to required qualifications for certain public health professionals employed by the board of health.

This protocol is not exhaustive of all classifications of public health professionals that may be employed by boards of health. Boards of health may have additional criteria that are important to their organization when hiring public health professionals. These additional criteria are not considered in this protocol.

**Qualifications for Medical Officer of Health (MOH), Associate Medical Officer of Health (AMOH), and Public Health Nurse are specified in legislation and regulation, and remain unchanged.**

- For MOH and AMOH qualifications, refer to section 64 of the HPPA and to section 1 of Regulation 566 (Qualifications of Boards of Health Staff) under the HPPA.
- For Public Health Nurse qualifications, refer to section 71 (3) of the HPPA and to section 6 of Regulation 566 (Qualifications of Boards of Health Staff) under the HPPA.

## Reference to the Standards

This protocol relates to the Public Health Practice Domain within the Organizational Requirements, specifically:

**Requirement 4.** The board of health shall employ qualified public health professionals in accordance with the *Qualifications for Public Health Professionals Protocol, 2018* (or as current).

# Operational Roles and Responsibilities

## Dentist

- 1) The board of health shall only employ Dentists with the following qualification:
  - a) General or Specialty certificate of registration from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario.

## Public Health Dentist

- 2) The board of health shall only employ Public Health Dentists with the following qualification:
  - a) Specialty certificate of registration in public health dentistry (Dental Public Health) from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario.

## Dental Hygienist

- 3) The board of health shall only employ Registered Dental Hygienists with the following qualification:
  - a) General or Specialty certificate of registration from the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario.

## Registered Dietitian

- 4) The board of health shall only employ Registered Dietitians with the following qualification:
  - a) General certificate of registration from the College of Dietitians of Ontario.

## Public Health Inspector

- 5) The board of health shall only employ Public Health Inspectors with the following qualification:
  - a) Certificate granted by the Board of Certification of Public Health Inspectors of The Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors; or
  - b) Certificate issued prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 1979 by The Canadian Public Health Association.

## References

1. Ontario. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Ontario public health standards: requirements for programs, services, and accountability, 2018. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018. Available from: [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph\\_standards/default.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/default.aspx)
2. *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, RSO 1990, c H.7. Available from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90h07>

