

Cross Linkages in the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) and Protocols

Infectious Diseases and
Public Health Emergency Preparedness
Workshops

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Purpose of Presentation

- (1) Discuss the “integrated”, cross-linked, approach to public health program and service planning, delivery and evaluation
 - Reinforce the significance of the Foundational Standard

- (2) Discuss cross-linkages in Environmental Health, Infectious Diseases and Public Health Emergency Preparedness in the OPHS and Protocols
 - Provide specific examples in each Standard / Program area
 - Discuss impacts for program and service planning, delivery and evaluation

Overview

- OPHS and Protocols attempt to challenge programmatic silos and foster integration across areas of public health
- Foundational Standard requires key activities to be undertaken to inform activities in all Standards / Programs
- Number of specific cross-linkages embedded in Standards and Protocols
 - Focus will be on cross-linkages between the Infectious Diseases, Environmental Health and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Standards and Protocols

What are Cross Linkages?

Cross linkages - there are two types:

- **Common** Linkages: Linkages that are common to all standards and in some protocols (e.g. Foundational Standard)

AND

- **Specific** Linkages: Linkages that form a relationship with other areas in OPHS, for which implementation requires the application of other protocol(s).

Common Requirements for all Standards

- The OPHS and Protocols recognize that key public health responsibilities and activities are not discrete
- Key foundational activities underlie and inform all Standards.
 - Activities include:
 - Population health assessment
 - Surveillance
 - Research and knowledge exchange
 - Evaluation

Specific Requirements among Infectious Diseases, Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness

1. Developing Contingency Plans

Infectious Diseases

- Rabies Contingency Plan (1.b)
- Institutional/Facility Outbreak Response Plan (1.e)

Emergency Preparedness

- Continuity of Operations Plan
- Emergency Response Plan

Specific Requirements among Infectious Diseases, Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness (Cont'd)

2. Conducting Risk Assessments

- Infectious Diseases
 - Identify and assess the risk of transmission of communicable disease
- Emergency Preparedness
 - Identify and assess the relevant hazards and risks to public health
- Environmental Health
 - Identify health hazards in the environment

Specific Requirements among Infectious Diseases, Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness (Cont'd)

3. 24/7 Notification Capability

- Infectious Diseases
 - 24/7 on-call system for notification of infectious diseases outbreaks, infectious diseases, suspected rabies exposures
- Environmental Health
 - 24/7 on-call system for receiving and responding to reports of potential health hazards, safe water issues, food-related issues
- Emergency Preparedness
 - Develop, implement and document 24/7 notification protocols

Impacts for Program & Service Planning, Delivery and Evaluation

- Program and services must be informed by the Foundational Standard
- Planning must take into account:
 - Population health assessment
 - Surveillance
 - Research and knowledge exchange
 - Program evaluation
- Key activities should integrate with key functions of other Standards/Protocols to break down programmatic silos

Questions?