



Annual Report: 2019



A word from our Medical Officer of Health

Over the last few years, Public Health has been going through a period of uncertainty. The Provincial Government proposed consolidating the existing health units into 10 regional health entities, merging CK Public Health with four neighbouring health units. The new service area would span over 14,500 square kilometres, and would be responsible for meeting the needs of nearly 1.3 million residents. Furthermore, the funding structure of public health would change significantly.

Under the current structure of governance under our local Board of Health, CK Public Health is able to develop and deliver tailored programs and services to address local needs in our community, as well as quickly communicate and respond to local and global emergencies. Our strong links to our Municipality have greatly streamlined these responses. CK Public Health has been able to collaborate and develop strong partnerships with local agencies and organizations to address local needs to improve the overall health and well-being of our community.

Changing the current structure of CK Public Health and decoupling us from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and especially our local Board of Health will limit our ability to address local needs best suited to our community. It may further limit our ability to collaborate with local agencies and organizations to develop unique health promotion and protection measures for Chatham-Kent, particularly school boards. Research and experience agree that Ontario's local model of public health delivery, entirely separate from the acute health care system is best and worth preserving.

Every day CK Public Health is advocating, collaborating, developing and tailoring health promotion and health protection measures to address local needs to improve health in our community. Reduction in chronic diseases produces real savings to the healthcare system. Despite the uncertainty about the future of public health, we will move forward, steadfastly serving our community as we have always done, to ensure chronic diseases are prevented, lives are improved and lifespans are enhanced.

We are CK Public Health and this is what we do.

W. David Colby, MSc, MD, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

From Our Chair

Throughout 2019, I have often expressed the importance for CK Public Health to remain local to Chatham-Kent. The Provincial Government has proposed merging CK Public Health with four neighbouring health units, and mandating that they all report to one regional Board of Health, which may result in a loss of autonomy for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Under the current structure of governance, CK Public Health is able to address and respond to local needs in a way that makes the most sense to our community. By merging neighbouring health units and mandating that they all report to one regional Board of Health, it may weaken our overall ability to meet local needs in a way that our community requires those needs to be met.

Although much of CK Public Health's work goes unrecognized to the community until an emergency is declared, I know that CK Public Health works diligently every day to address local needs to improve the overall health and well-being of our community. Simply read through this report to learn more about CK Public Health and the important work that they do to help everyone in Chatham-Kent reach their full potential for health and well-being.

Joe Faas, Board Chair

2019 Financial Statement

Funding

Provincial:	8,972,539
Federal:	78,452
Municipal:	2,109,970
Other:	141,401
TOTAL:	11,302,362

Expenses

Employee Related:	8,606,335
Building:	583,014
Equipment Related:	117,507
Operating:	632,865
Contracted Services:	209,370
Administrative:	1,153,271
TOTAL:	11,302,362



VISION

Everyone in Chatham-Kent has the opportunity to reach their full potential for health and well-being.

MISSION

Working together to deliver evidence-informed, equity focused programs and services. We protect and promote health and advocate for positive social change.

VALUES

Dedication
Knowledge
Trust and Respect
Leadership
Innovation
Flexibility

PUBLIC HEALTH IN CHATHAM-KENT

By The Numbers...



455 Naloxone kits were distributed through CK Public Health Clinic services, and 4 partners were brought on to the Naloxone Expansion Program to be able to increase access to Naloxone in the community.

The satellite Needle Syringe Program at CK Public Health distributed nearly 7000 kits comprised of a combination of harm reduction supplies to help reduce the spread of blood-borne infections.

Jordynne, a Public Health Nurse, with a naloxone kit.

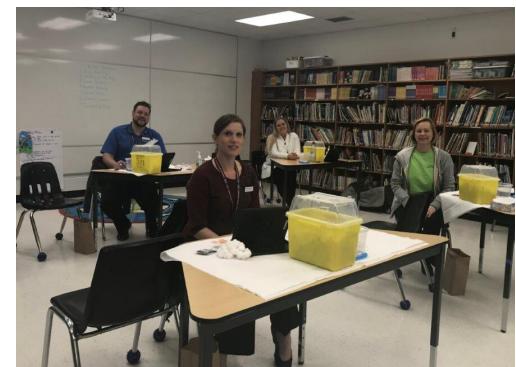
Over 200 new clients accessed Chatham-Kent's Needle Syringe Program in 2019.

We made over 2,000 over-the-phone connections.

5,525 immunizations to Chatham-Kent residents: 1,536 at 47 in-house clinics and 3,989 at 117 school clinics.

We supported secondary school students to access various services and supports over 1000 times.

CK Public Health facilitated 63 in-class teaching requests at schools, connected teachers to health and wellness resources 36 times, and supported 66 health and wellness school events.



Public Health Nurses at a School Immunization Clinic.



4,399 children and youth received oral health screening to identify dental decay and assist with access to treatment to prevent potential illness.

1,758 public health inspections were performed, in addition to 338 animal exposure investigations, and 450 responses to complaints and requests for service.

Public Health Inspectors checking for black legged ticks. 100 ticks were brought in for identification.

1,368 visits by families were made to Baby Weigh In and Developmental Clinics, helping children reach their full potential through early identification of challenges.

100% of all new mothers and babies were screened, and 204 families received advanced breastfeeding support.



"Lactation Lucy" holding a class on breastfeeding.

2,754 students participated in vaping prevention education sessions, and 78 brief cessation interventions were provided to youth and young adults.

CK Public Health provided and supported 6 education sessions for community members and health care providers on safe winter walking, reaching nearly 200 people.



Students planting trees.

We partnered with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority on the Tomorrow's Greener Schools Today initiative to plant 115 trees on local schoolyards in 2019. This program works to enhance the built environment providing future shade cover while educating students about sun safety and promoting environmental stewardship.

Through the Physical Literacy Chatham-Kent project, 378 community leaders were trained to provide high quality physical literacy experiences and programming for children and youth 0 to 12 years of age across the early years, education, health, recreation, and sport sectors.



Students receiving a "Wellness Grant" through CK Public Health.

15 schools received \$200 CK Public Health School Wellness Grants to support youth engagement efforts to promote health and well-being of students, staff and school communities.

CK Public Health brought together over 70 key community partners and stakeholders that work in substance use and harm reduction to share the findings from the Opioid Use Situational Assessment, and to discuss next steps for the community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CK Public Health has worked to increase needle disposal options in Chatham-Kent to decrease the number of discarded needles found in the community.

We developed and launched a nuclear safety program to offer Potassium Iodide (KI tablets) in West Kent and Rondeau Provincial Park for protection in the unlikely event of an incident at a nuclear power facility. These areas fall within the 'ingestion planning zone' of one or more nuclear power plants in the USA.

Based on the findings of the Social Attitudes Towards Inequalities survey, CK Public Health developed a health equity communication campaign to raise awareness about the social determinants of health and health inequities among Chatham-Kent residents.



CK Public Health and Prosperity Roundtable co-hosted a community engagement workshop during Poverty Awareness Week, titled: "Building Connections: Engaging diverse communities to create change". The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to learn more about the theory and practice behind engaging equity-seeking populations in our community, to identify the community connections and relationships that are required for effective engagement, and to share resources and learning.

A staff "Building Connections" workshop.

CK Public Health assembled an advisory group with representation from across sectors, including participants with lived experience, to support conducting a Health Equity Data Analysis to identify differences in health outcomes between population groups, and to describe the broader policy and systems factors that are significant contributors to those health inequities.

CK Public Health is supporting a shift towards a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach that promotes fair opportunities and access to services for everyone in CK to reach their optimal health. Activities include reviewing the transportation plans with a health lens, supporting a cross-sector leadership network to advance community quality of life, and partnering on research to learn more about a HiAP Approach.

CK Public Health worked with neighbouring public health units to launch the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program with the goal of increasing access to dental care, improving oral and overall health, decreasing risks of chronic oral diseases and oral cancers, and reducing emergency room visits by seniors with dental pain.

All elementary schools and childcare centres in Chatham-Kent were provided with hand-washing educational tools and resources as an initiative to improve hand hygiene practices.



CK Public Health's website, www.ckphu.com.

We developed the Chatham-Kent Health stats portal (www.ckhealthstats.com), a community resource for population health information.

The CK Public Health website was redesigned to strengthen communication and increase community engagement.

#WeAreCKPublicHealth

Board of Health: Brennan Altman, Noreen Blake, Ron Carnahan, Joe Faas, Karen Kirkwood-Whyte, Carmen McGregor, Brock McGregor, Sharon Pfaff

Management Team:

- Dr. David Colby, Medical Officer of Health
- Dr. April Rietdyk, General Manager, Community Human Services, CEO Chatham-Kent Public Health
- Teresa Bendo, Director, Public Health
- Rosemarie Arndt, Program Manager, Environmental Health
- Chris Sherman, Program Manager, Chronic Disease & Well Being
- Betty Schepens, Program Manager, Infectious Diseases & Emergency Management
- Stacy Rybansky, Program Manager, School Health
- Marnie VanVlymen, Program Manager, Healthy Growth & Development
- Laura Zettler, Program Manager & Epidemiologist, Foundational Standards
- Stanley Ing, Epidemiologist
- Heather Bakker, Administrative Assistant
- Lisa Powers, Executive Assistant

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