
MEDIA RELEASE**May 25, 2026****Public Health Inspectors Help Keep Chatham-Kent Safe**

Chatham-Kent Public Health is highlighting the important role Public Health Inspectors play in protecting the community's health and safety.

Speaking at a recent Board of Health meeting, Medical Officer of Health Dr. Shanker Nesathurai outlined how Public Health Inspectors work behind the scenes every day to prevent illness and reduce health risks across the community.

"Most community members may never interact directly with a Public Health Inspector," said Dr. Nesathurai. "However, their work is fundamental to the public health services mission of illness prevention and community safety."

Public Health Inspectors are highly trained professionals who have to complete at least four years of University and then pass a rigorous certification exam.

CK Public Health has a team of nine inspectors who oversee approximately 1,500 public-facing establishments across Chatham-Kent. This includes restaurants, nail salons, barber shops, tattoo parlours as well as public swimming pools and splash pads. Inspections are conducted regularly based on risk levels to help ensure safe practices are followed.

Dr. Nesathurai said, "Public Health Inspectors are provincial offences officers with the authority to issue fines or close establishments when necessary. However, their primary role is to educate and guide operators, working collaboratively to promote best practices and maintain safe environments for clients and staff."

Inspection results and lists of authorized settings are available online at checkit.chatham-kent.ca.

"Public health inspectors play a critical role in keeping our community safe," said Dr. Nesathurai. "We also encourage residents to contact us if they have concerns about an establishment."

For more information or to report a concern, visit Chatham-Kent Public Health's website or contact the health unit directly.

-30-

CUTLINE: Dr. Shanker Nesathurai demonstrates proper techniques for checking the internal temperature of cooked chicken, highlighting food safety during his remarks on the role of public health inspectors at the Board of Health meeting on May 25, 2026.

Media Contact:

Jacquie Cartwright

Community Outreach & Public Relations Officer, CK Public Health

P: 519-352-7270 ext 4247

ckphucommunications@chatham-kent.ca