

Resilience for a Changing Future

Public Health at work in Algoma
2019 Report to the Community



Algoma

PUBLIC HEALTH

Santé publique Algoma

Our Vision

Together, we create and sustain healthy communities.

Our Mission

Together with our communities, Algoma Public Health is a leader in promoting and protecting health and well-being.

Our Values

Excellence - Respect - Accountability & Transparency - Collaboration



Algoma
PUBLIC HEALTH
Santé publique Algoma

A message from the Board of Health Chair

Public health is a good return on investment.

Public health is defined as the organized efforts of society to keep people healthy and prevent injury, illness, and premature death. It is a combination of programs, services, and policies that protect and promote health.

Public health uses a population health approach, which includes efforts to promote health and prevent disease at the population level, including all people across Algoma.

Public health focuses on health equity, which includes efforts so that everyone has equal opportunities to attain their full health potential.

Public health initiatives save lives and money.

For Example:

- Every \$1 spent on immunizing children with the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine saves \$16 in health care costs;
- Every \$1 invested in tobacco prevention programs saves up to \$20 in future health care costs;
- Every \$1 invested in car and booster seats saves \$40 in avoided medical costs; and
- Every \$1 spent on mental health and addictions saves \$7 in health costs and \$30 dollars in lost productivity and social costs.

This annual report gives you a snapshot of the public health work being done in our communities on a day-to-day basis.

From educating about healthy lifestyles to advocating for healthy public policy, employees work with municipalities and a cross section of public health employees, families, and community partners to help each and every one of us in Algoma live a healthy life.

Lee Mason

Board Chair

References:

Government of Canada. (2008). The Chief Public Health Officer's report on the state of public health in Canada: Addressing health inequalities. Retrieved from [Public Health Canada Webpage: Report on Public Health 2008](#)

Health Promotion

A Shared Goal of Reconciliation

Algoma Public Health is part of a research project to identify mutually beneficial, respectful, and effective principles and wise practices for effective engagement and meaningful relationship building between First Nations communities and the public health sector. Respect, trust, self-determination, and commitment are key principles identified for relationship building and ultimately, improved health for all.

Algoma Public Health wishes to grow through cultural humility by learning more about the experiences and cultural identities of others in Algoma.

With Algoma University's Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre, Algoma Public Health has embarked on a journey of bringing cultural humility and local teachings to all staff. Beginning with a foundational group of Champions, these learnings will soon include all staff at Algoma Public Health.

- We commit to the shared goal of reconciliation.

Resource:

[Talking Together to Improve Health Project Team. \(2017\). Talking Together to Improve Health: Literature Review.](#)

"I think it sounds like a domino effect. If you have respect then you will gain trust and there is more commitment from all parties involved and as time progresses maybe self-determination can happen more readily. So those four attributes are all intertwined"

- Quote from a First Nations community member.



Health Promotion

Substance Use in Algoma

A multi-pronged approach to tackling substance use in our communities is possible through local partnerships and strong community connections.

APH continues to distribute naloxone to agencies, promote anti-stigma dialogue, and advocate for appropriate treatment options for residents who are struggling with substance use disorder.



Left to right: Dr. Jennifer Loo (Associate Medical Officer of Health), Allison McFarlane (Public Health Nurse)

Public Health Nurse Allison McFarlane received an award on behalf of Algoma Public Health at the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service Community Programs event.

The award is in appreciation of equipping front line police officers of the SSM Police Service with Naloxone kits

Algoma Public Health hosted a Substance Use Parents Night offering an interactive and informative session to:

- help parents and caregivers understand how substances impact childhood development;
- explain what the potential health effects are;
- identify how parents can help their teen to make informed decisions; and
- provide information about community supports.

In addition, a panel discussion was held with experts in the field of education, enforcement, public health, youth health promotion, social work and addictions who answered questions from those in attendance.

Health Protection

Public Health Action on Climate Change

APH works closely with municipalities and community groups to promote the development of built (e.g. infrastructure) and natural (e.g. green space) environments that support health and lessen emerging threats associated with a changing climate.

The World Health Organization has called climate change the greatest threat to human health in the 21st century. Climate change is already affecting the health and well-being of communities in Algoma.

Algoma Public Health is part of the Northern Ontario Climate Change & Health Collaborative, a group of seven public health units in northern Ontario who received a grant valued at \$300,000 from Health Canada to develop local health vulnerability and adaptation assessments for each region involved.

This assessment will create a snapshot for Algoma outlining climate change predictions, future health risks, and potential policies and programs that decision-makers can consider when addressing the impacts of Algoma's changing climate.

Resource:

[Government of Canada. \(2019\). Climate change and health adaptation capacity building program.](#)

The Changing Landscape of Public Health



The 2019 Ontario Budget proposed significant changes to the public health sector. The Government of Ontario intends to modernize public health by transitioning the existing 34 local public health units into 10 regional public health agencies.

A collaborative of Ontario's northeast public health units has been working closely to plan for a modernized sector, while remaining focused on the importance of local context and maintaining local public health services in all of our communities.

Local public health is everywhere- from restaurant inspections, to prenatal visits, school immunizations, and smoking cessation supports. APH continues to deliver services and plan for healthy environments across all 21 Algoma municipalities, and we thank you - our community - for your continued partnership in making public health happen!

Public Health in All of Us

Public Health Champion 2019

Public health is more than individual behaviours. It is the organized efforts of society to keep people healthy and prevent injury, illness, and premature death.

Public health is championed in our communities every day, by individuals who have gone above and beyond to contribute to the health of their communities.



The **2019 APH Public Health Champion, Elizabeth MacMillan** of Sault Ste. Marie.

Elizabeth is doing a lot in the community to promote gardening as a way for citizens of Sault Ste. Marie to have access to sustainable, healthy food options.

Elizabeth developed Algoma Educational Gardening which works with local schools and daycares to teach children about how to grow vegetables and why it is important. This year, Algoma Educational Gardening worked with HM Robbins, Kiwedin, Tarentorus, St. Mary's French Immersion and local daycares, including Waabinong Head Start.

Through networking, sharing knowledge, and teaching skills, Algoma Educational Gardening can steer our community towards healthy habits and a more sustainable way of living.

Thank you, Elizabeth, for all of your work towards making our community more equitable and healthy.



2019 Budget

<u>Municipal Levies (District of Algoma)</u>	<u>\$3,520,000</u>	
<u>Public Health Funding (Ministry of Health and Long Term Care)</u>	<u>\$10,796,000</u>	
<u>Community Health Funding (Ministry of Children Community & Social Services, North East Local Health Integrations Network, Algoma Family Services)</u>	<u>\$6,997,000</u>	
<u>Fees, Other Grants & Recoveries</u>	<u>\$1,268,000</u>	
	<u>\$22,581,000</u>	<i>Total for 2019</i>

Financial Facts! Did you know...

Public health is funded by provincial and municipal taxpayer dollars.

In 2019, the cost of public health services per person in Algoma was **53 cents/person/day** or **\$193/person for the year**, based on a 2019 census population estimate of 117,138 for the District of Algoma Health Unit.

An exceptional value-for-money when you look at this annual report and the health promotion and protection programming delivered with partners to you, our community.

Public Health By The Numbers in Algoma

1136



Food Handlers certified.

76



Small drinking water systems inspected.

2779



Dental screenings in elementary schools & day cares.

84%



New mothers who initiated breastfeeding.

4454



Students immunized at school clinics.

123



Pools & Spas inspected.

1297



Food premises inspected.

4279



Calls to the Sexual Health Information Line

348



Inspection of personal service settings.

2126



Clients who received a quit smoking assessment.

Connect with Public Health

Join the Conversation



@algomahealth

Phone

Blind River: (705) 356-2551 *or* 888-356-2551

Elliot Lake: (705) 848-2314 *or* 877-748-2314

Sault Ste. Marie: (705) 942-4646 *or* 866-892-0172

Wawa: (705) 856-7208 *or* 888-211-8074

Website

algomapublichealth.com

Email

contact@algomapublichealth.com