

Public Health 101

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Public Health 101

- Is a free, self-paced educational resource beneficial to all people and organizations that interact with the public health system.
- Provides a foundational knowledge of the structure, function, roles and responsibilities of public health in the BC and Canadian context.
- Can be remixed, tweaked, and built upon non-commercially to meet the needs of the user; in accordance with the Creative Commons copyright license.

Background

Public Health 101 was created by and for the Population and Public Health Division of the BC Ministry of Health to enhance the effectiveness of the Division workforce by providing staff with the necessary and consistent foundation in population and public health.

As public health stakeholders and partners became aware of Public Health 101, they expressed a strong interest in using the resource; thus Public Health 101 is now accessible by anyone through BC Campus.

Objectives:

Upon completing Public Health 101, individuals will gain a better understanding of the:

- factors that determine the health of the population
- contribution of public health to the health of the population
- history of public health renewal in Canada and BC
- ways public health complements other components of the health system
- structure, function, roles and responsibilities of the BC public health system
- core functions, roles and responsibilities of the BC public health system
- core Functions Framework and components, including how this framework is foundational to the BC public health system

Structure:

Public Health 101 encompasses two components made up of seven learning modules. These modules were developed using adult learning principles comprising additional resources, glossary of terms, illustrative examples, module highlights and reflective questions. Each module requires about 1-2 hours to complete, and individuals or organizations are free to complete any or all modules, as they deem appropriate. Component one includes modules one to four and provides the fundamentals to public health, including the basic concept of public health and how it is implemented in BC and Canada. Component two includes modules five to seven and goes beyond the fundamentals; exploring public health renewal, and public health practice in BC.

Public Health 101 Learning Modules

Component One: The Fundamentals

Module 1: What is Public Health?

- What public health is and why it is important, including the goals and values within a Canadian and BC context.
- The key accomplishments in the history of public health in Canada.
- Where public health fits within the health system.

Module 2: Population Health and the Determinants of Health

- Public health and its relationship with population health.
- The determinants of health and how they positively and negatively influence health.
- Health status disparities and health inequities.

Module 3: How Does Public Health Work?

- The five public health strategies.
- How the strategies are used to maintain and improve the health status of populations and to reduce inequities between populations in their health status.

Module 4: How is the Public Health System Organized in Canada?

- How the public health system is organized.
- The functions of the Population and Public Health Division and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer.
- Public health governance.

Component Two: Beyond the Fundamentals

Module 5: Public Health Renewal in Canada

- What public health renewal is and why it is needed.
- The key elements of an effective public health system.

Module 6: Public Health Renewal in BC

- The essential functions necessary for an effective public health system in BC.
- The objectives and goals of the Public Health Guiding Framework, which is the next phase of public health renewal in BC.

Module 7: Core Functions in Public Health

- The essential functions necessary for an effective public health system in BC.
- The objectives and goals of the Public Health Guiding Framework, which is the next phase of public health renewal in BC.

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