

# Documenting front-line local public health perspectives and activities in response to COVID-19



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### What:

Public health is at the forefront of the response to the COVID-19 crisis in Canada and local Medical Health Officers (or Medical Officers of Health) administer and oversee on-the-ground responses. The goal of our research is to measure Local Public Health Unit (LPHU) public health interventions and capacity to address COVID-19 and to report on relationships or associations with COVID-19 population health outcomes. In essence, our projects aim to provide an overall picture of Canadian LPHU functioning through an analysis of comparable data on interventions to address COVID-19 in order to increase understanding of the roles, responsibilities and value of public health at the local level and improve pandemic responses in the future.

### How:

Surveys will be deployed in Fall/Winter 2020 across two projects:

- To Saskatchewan-based public health leadership to assess unintended consequences of COVID-19 and public health activities to mitigate it
- To local public health leadership across Canada to assess local-level public health activities that have occurred due to COVID-19. This programmatic and policy activity data will be synthesized using the World Health Organization International Classification of Health Interventions framework

### Objectives

- Capture context-specific, front-line policy and practice information at a high-resolution
- Develop a meta-process that captures public health front-line information in a routine manner and integrate this with other routine public health surveillance activities



## Public Health Systems and Services Research Integrated Knowledge Translation Collaborative

### So What:

Findings will provide researchers and decision-makers with insights into how local public health units affect and are affected by public health practice, governance and resources and ultimately population health outcomes during health emergencies. We plan to leverage our efforts to enable routine and ongoing assessment of public health practice, governance and resources across Canada in order to establish the infrastructure for comparative research. Ultimately, these efforts will serve to advance the long-needed Public Health Systems and Services Research agenda in Canada.