

Public health nurses and Halton Schools:

working together for healthier kids and healthier communities

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the role of the public health nurse in schools?

- The Halton Region Health Department has a mandate to work with schools to promote the optimal health and developmental potential of children and youth.
- Public health nurses (PHNs) work in schools to enhance the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of the entire school community by:
 - building relationships
 - collaborative planning
 - engagement of students, staff, and parents
 - development of community partnerships

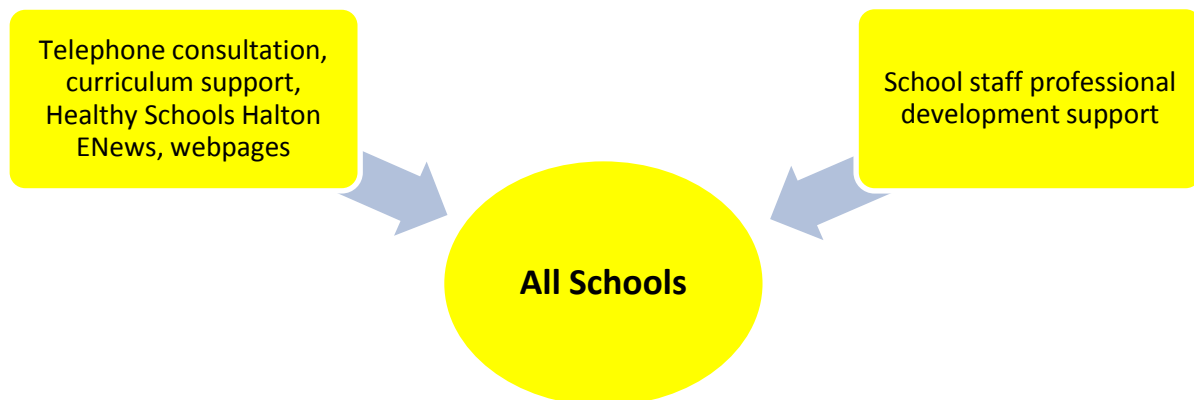
2. How are we addressing the growth challenges in Halton?

- The School Years Program within the Health Department has developed a new service delivery model to creatively deal with population growth in the region. This model will ensure that we can continue to provide quality services to schools with existing staffing levels.

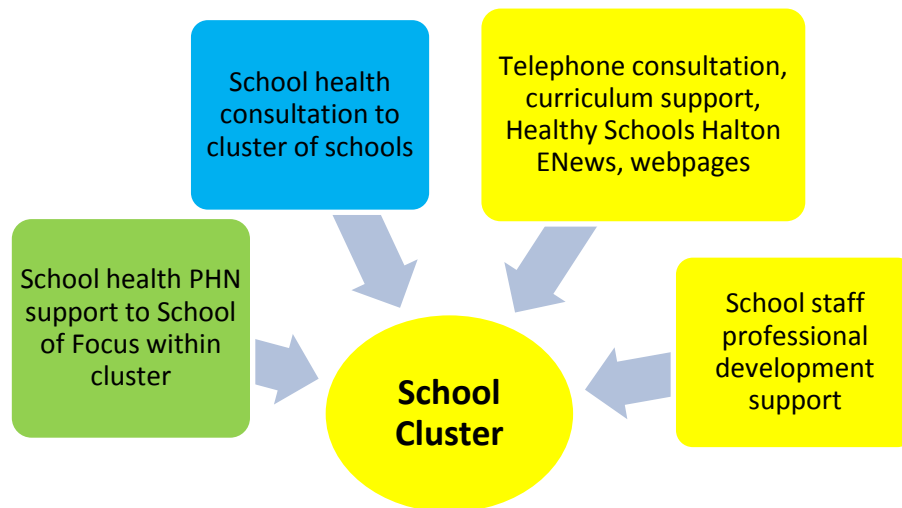
3. What is the new service delivery model?

- All schools will receive access to school health information and resources.
- Intensive PHN support will be provided to school clusters (i.e., a high school and their feeder schools) selected by the school board. The focus of the majority of their work will be in schools in vulnerable communities.

4. What Health Department supports will be available to all Halton schools?



5. What Health Department supports will the selected clusters of schools receive?



6. What is the role of the PHN at the selected cluster of schools?

While working with a designated school champion within a school cluster, a PHN will work collaboratively with the school community to:

- Encourage the sharing of data and relevant learning with the school cluster.
- Facilitate communications to identify common issues and challenges that impact the school cluster.
- Identify and prioritize areas of potential joint action.
- Help develop a plan to address the needs of the school cluster.
- Promote family and youth engagement.
- Facilitate access to other community resources, programs and services.

7. What is the role of the PHN at the school of focus?

- Provide consultation and support to help develop school action plans that align with School and Board Improvement Plans.
- Identify school strengths, assess and prioritize school needs, and identify best practice approaches to address these needs.
- Plan, implement and evaluate health promotion strategies and activities on various issues (e.g., healthy eating, physical activity, bullying prevention, substance misuse).
- Provide curriculum consultation and support.
- Promote and support asset-based approaches and initiatives e.g., Developmental Assets
- Promote opportunities for skill development for staff and students.
- Participate on SSAT and other school committees.
- Meaningfully engage students, staff, parents and community partners.
- Facilitate access to community resources, programs and services.

8. What are the benefits of working with a PHN in your school?

- Help administrators develop a healthy setting for living, learning, and working.
- Work with students, parents, and staff to improve the school environment.
- Help fulfill ministry mandates to promote parent engagement and inclusivity in schools.

9. How can I obtain information or support from the Halton Region Health Department?

For additional consultation and resource support from the Halton Region Health Department you can always:

- Contact a public health nurse by dialing 311 or emailing schoolhealth@halton.ca.
- Access school health information for professionals at halton.ca/schoolhealth.
- Review and use content from the [Healthy Schools Halton ENews](#)