

NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNICABLE DISEASES MANUAL

The *Health Protection Act* (2004) [HPA] is the legal authority for the investigation and control of communicable disease in Nova Scotia. This includes the mandatory reporting of notifiable diseases and conditions as outlined in “It’s the Law”.

In relation to the *Health Protection Act*, the *Nova Scotia Public Health Standards (2011-2016)* set out the requirements for public health action in communicable disease prevention and control at both the provincial and district health authority levels of the system (figure 1). The *Protocol Expectations (June 2013)* articulate the next level of detail of the requirements in the Standards, describing the work or the expectations of public health, to guide operationalization. Specifically, the *Communicable Disease Prevention, Management and Response Protocol* makes reference and provides links to the *Nova Scotia Communicable Disease Manual* in the areas of: management and control of notifiable diseases and conditions and management of outbreaks.

The *Nova Scotia Communicable Disease Manual* is a document containing guidelines and policies to assist public health practitioners in the management and control of communicable disease enabling consistency of public health practice across the province, while allowing for the flexibility that may be required within the district health authority. This manual is routinely reviewed and updated as new evidence presents.

Professional judgment, critical thinking and discretion in the application of these guidelines will be dependent upon the complexity of the disease and the management thereof.

The *Nova Scotia Surveillance Guidelines for Notifiable Diseases and Conditions* provide detailed guidance to public health staff in Nova Scotia related to the surveillance of notifiable diseases and conditions and the handling of related information collected as part of CD follow-up. For this reason, the surveillance guidelines are a companion document to the *Nova Scotia Communicable Disease Manual*.

