



Services and Activities

OFFERED BY
THE INSTITUT NATIONAL
DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE
DU QUÉBEC

Québec 

The **Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ)** which is an expertise and reference public health institute, was created in 1998 following the adoption of its act of incorporation (R.S.Q., chapter I-13.1.1). Its experts come from fields as distinct as applied science, health sciences, social sciences and humanities and work with the health care network to develop and pool public health knowledge and skills.

vision

The Institute seeks to be Québec's province-wide public health expertise and reference centre. Our goal is to advance knowledge and propose cross-sectoral strategies and endeavours that will improve the state of health and well-being of Quebecers.

mission

Our mission is to support the ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec, regional public health authorities and health and social services institutions in carrying out their public health responsibilities, by offering our expertise and specialized laboratory and screening services.

MORE SPECIFICALLY, WE FOCUS ON:

- developing knowledge and helping to monitor the public's health and well-being and its determinants
- developing new knowledge and approaches in health promotion, prevention and protection
- promoting the development of public health research and innovation
- providing opinions, expertise and advice
- evaluating the effects of public health policy on Quebecers
- making public health expertise available through ongoing training activities
- ensuring screening services
- ensuring laboratory services, particularly microbiology and toxicology
- ensuring support in quality maintenance
- promoting the transfer and sharing of knowledge and international collaboration
- participating in updating and developing the Programme national de santé publique du Québec (*Québec National Health Program*)

commitments to activities and services

In keeping with the Institute's policy on activities and services and our vision, mission and values, we are committed to maintaining a high level of knowledge and skill among our staff to be able to continue to respond, in short order, to requests for public health expertise and advice, or support during emergency situations. We are also committed to scientific monitoring to anticipate emerging problems in order to facilitate decision making and to offer easy access to the results of all of our work. Finally, consultation mechanisms are put in place on a regular basis to establish the needs, expectations, and satisfaction levels of our partners and clients.

methods

When the Institute receives a mandate, its approach is to begin by establishing with the client deadlines for responding, procedures for carrying out the work specific to the mandate, potential fees and necessary follow-up mechanisms.

The time period for responding to a mandate varies depending on the nature of the products and services, the degree of urgency and the amount of work required.

- **EXPERT CONSULTATION – rapid response (24 hrs)**
When the information and the workload required are minimal, relate to a common topic or respond to an urgent need.
- **INFORMATION SUMMARY OR BRIEF SCIENTIFIC OPINION – response within a short time frame (a few days to a few weeks)**
When the information and workload required relate to a common topic or respond to a relatively urgent need.
- **DETAILED SCIENTIFIC OPINION – response within a medium time frame (a few weeks to a few months)**
When the existing information and workload require in-depth work on a specific topic.
- **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SERVICES – response within a long time frame (a few months to more than one year)**
When the information and workload required are quite significant and require in-depth work or when the information requested is new or not readily accessible.

clients

According to the Institute's act of incorporation, the following clients are given priority access to our services:

- 1 Ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec (*Québec's Minister of Health and Social Services*) and the ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (*Health and Social Services Department*)
- 2 Health and social service agencies and regional public health authorities
- 3 Institutions in the health and social services network

Other important clients use our services:

- 1 Other government departments and organizations
- 2 Institutions in the fields of education and research
- 3 Canadian and international public health organizations
- 4 Aboriginal communities
- 5 The private sector and the general public

services

In accordance with the legal foundation of the Institute, our services are grouped according to six major functions. Each of these functions allows us to offer specific products and services in various fields of expertise and areas of activity.

1 EXPERTISE AND ADVICE

The Institute, given its constitution and its community of researchers and multidisciplinary experts, provides a number of services from the perspective of help in decision making, that aim to provide recommendations on various public health issues depending on the available fields of expertise and the level of specialization sought.

EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED:

- Scientific opinions: summary or detailed
- Methodological advice
- Healthy public policy assessment
- Specialized consultation
- Specific guidance in emergency situations
- Health impact assessment
- Risk assessment
- Development of criteria and standards
- Participation on committees as experts

2 INFORMATION

For the Institute, the goal of advancing knowledge is achieved by sharing public health knowledge and through ongoing communication, adapted to the needs of various audiences.

EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED:

- Publications adapted to general or specialized audiences (books, scientific publications, brochures, flyers, newsletters, journals, guides, directories, etc.)
- Public relations
- Scientific communications
- Information portals on the Web
- Santécom: public health documentation network

3 TRAINING

In collaboration with universities and professional associations working in public health, the Institute develops and offers ongoing training programs, helping ensure the development and maintenance of skills in this field. It also helps develop and update public health courses at the undergraduate, master's and PhD levels.

EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED:

- Ongoing advanced expertise training (training workshops, online training, courses, annual public health days [JASP])
- Work internships, residencies, postdoctoral internships
- On-the-job internship program for professionals
- Selective inventory of scientific events and relevant university programs
- Support in developing and promoting university programs in public health

Infocentre de santé publique du Québec (Québec Public Health Infocentre)

The Institute contributes to the management of public health information by launching and operating a collective information infrastructure available to all those working in the health system, linked with strategic public health information systems.

EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED:

- Common information portal (common surveillance plan)
- Access to and active use of health indicators (Éco-Santé, georeference service)

4 RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND INNOVATION

The Institute contributes to developing, updating, transferring and applying public health knowledge. As such, it develops innovative methods to improve the quality of services offered and helps advance research. The Institute also anticipates emerging problems that may present a risk or threat to public health.

EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED:

- Terms of reference, methodological approaches
- Research, study and assessment reports
- Literature reviews, strategic watches
- Summaries of scientific knowledge
- Development of analysis methods
- Program monitoring and evaluation

5 INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

As an expertise and reference centre, the Institute establishes links with various organizations at both the Canadian and international levels in order to promote cooperation and the sharing of public health knowledge.

EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED:

- Sharing expertise
- Developing relationships with international organizations
- Liaison between experts and the public health network
- Support to the activities of the World Health Organization's collaborating centres related to the Institute
- Collaboration in organizing scientific activities (seminars, colloquia, etc.)

6 LABORATORY AND SCREENING SERVICE

LABORATORIES

Laboratoire de santé publique du Québec (LSPQ) (*Québec Public Health Laboratory*)

The LSPQ acts as the provincial reference laboratory in microbiology and quality assurance. Its containment level 3 laboratory is able to respond to emergencies generated by suspect packages or emerging or resurging pathogens.

EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED:

- Analysis of rare, emerging or highly virulent pathogens
- Confirmation of diagnoses
- Epidemiological and microbiological data surveillance
- Emergency services (bioterrorism, pandemic)
- Quality assurance, training and control of diagnostic services
- Development of confirmatory and diagnostic tests

The services offered by the LSPQ are described on the following Web site: www.inspq.qc.ca/lspq

Laboratoire de toxicologie (*Toxicology Laboratory*)

It provides specialized analytic services in toxicology and management of international quality assurance programs.

EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED:

- Analysis, identification and quantification of organic pollutants, metals and medications, drugs and alcohol
- Post-mortem toxicological screening
- Biological monitoring of toxic substances
- Interlaboratory quality assurance

The services offered by the laboratoire de toxicologie (toxicology lab) and the analysis directory are described on the following Web site: www.inspq.qc.ca/ctq

SCREENING

The Institute offers some clinical screening services using mobile units.

EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED:

- Audiology and pulmonary radiology exams in the workplace
- Mammograms (support to the network, particularly in remote regions)

FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY

DEVELOPMENT, ADAPTATION AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION

This field of expertise deals with an array of psychosocial and health problems using approaches that focus on personal and community development.



- Children and youth
 - › Perinatal period and early childhood
 - › Health and school environments
- Living environments
 - › Community development
 - › Social development
- Mental health

LIFESTYLES AND CHRONIC ILLNESSES

This field of expertise addresses individual factors and conditions related to various living environments to promote the adoption of healthy lifestyles and prevent chronic illnesses.



- Nutrition, physical activity
- Weight-related problems
- Tobacco, alcohol, drugs and other products at risk of creating a dependency
- Dental health
- Fight against cancer
- Preventive clinical services

INTENTIONAL AND UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES

To promote safety and reduce injuries, this field of expertise favours an approach that aims to mobilize local communities, the adoption of public policy that promote safety and the development of expertise directed at seeking, implementing and evaluating solutions.



- Injuries that are road-related, occur in the home, while playing sports or during recreational activities
- Individual safety and in living environments
- Violence
- Suicide

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

In cooperation with numerous players working in the area of occupational health, this field of expertise addresses the risks associated with occupational illnesses, workplace health and the health condition of workers.



- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Respiratory diseases
 - › Occupational asthma
 - › Silicosis
 - › Asbestosis
 - › Berylliosis
- Health hazards
- Safe pregnancy and breast-feeding
- Organization of work and working conditions
 - › Physical health
 - › Mental health and psychological harassment
- Hearing and noise-related problems

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN TOXICOLOGY

To reduce public exposure to harmful environmental agents, environmental health addresses the health problems and social repercussions of the environment, as well as developing effective intervention measures.

Human toxicology aims to evaluate exposure to toxic substances and its impact on individuals and populations.



- **Environmental health**
 - Water quality and waterborne diseases
 - › Quality standards and contamination management
 - Air quality and radiation
 - › Contamination of dwellings and public buildings
 - › Atmospheric pollution
 - › Radiation, electrical and magnetic fields, ultraviolet radiation
 - Toxicological risks
 - › Contaminated soil and land
 - › Environmental health emergencies
 - › Exposure to chemical substances
- Pesticides, insecticides and agricultural pollution
- Climate change and sustainable development
- General deterioration of living environments
- **Human toxicology**
 - Individual and public exposure to:
 - › Metals
 - › Organic toxic substances (pesticides, PCBs, POPs)
 - › Medications and illicit drugs

FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND MICROBIOLOGY

The field of expertise dealing with infectious diseases allows for the anticipation of emerging problems. It also permits interventions to be directed towards protecting the public from the spread of infections and eventual epidemics.

Microbiology focuses on the study of micro-organisms (bacteria, viruses, etc.) that can affect health.

Infectious diseases

- Immunization
 - › Basic immunization
 - › Hepatitis
 - › Pulmonary infections
 - › Human papillomavirus (HPV)
 - › Meningococcus
 - › Other illnesses that can be avoided through vaccination
- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and blood-borne infections
- Hemovigilance
- Nosocomial infections
 - › *Clostridium difficile* (C. difficile)
 - › Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)
 - › Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE)

Microbiology

- Culture identification
- Mycobacteriology
- Antibiotic susceptibility
- Mycology
- Parasitology
- Serodiagnostics
- Virology
- Molecular biology
- Physical chemistry (hemodialysis water and water fluoridation)

IMPACT ON THE WELL-BEING OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SYSTEMS

This field of expertise develops and builds upon knowledge regarding the organization of primary care services and programs to control chronic illnesses in relation to their impact on health.

- Primary care service performance
- Service organization models for various clientele (general, those with loss of autonomy, mental health problems, living in a rural, remote or isolated region)
- Organization models for the prevention, screening and management of chronic illnesses, particularly for cancer control and genetic diseases
- Support for strategies for change

IMPACT OF PUBLIC POLICY ON HEALTH

To support and influence the adoption of healthy public policy, this field of expertise is devoted to the assessment of the effects and potential risks to health.

- Public policy that affects determinants of health and well-being
 - › Lifestyles and individual behaviours
 - › Social, physical and economic environments

SURVEILLANCE OF THE HEALTH STATUS OF THE POPULATION AND ITS DETERMINANTS

By virtue of Article 34 of the Public Health Act, the Institute has received the mandate to monitor the state of health and well-being of the population. This mandate is guided by the provincial surveillance plans agreed upon by the Direction générale de la santé publique (*Public Health Branch*) of the ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (*Health and Social Services Department*), the public health regional directorates and the Institute.

- Ongoing studies and analyses of the health status of the population
- Thematic analyses based on socio-economic health determinants, and according to the level of material and social deprivation
- Development of methods, measures and indicators
- Development of targeted surveillance systems for chronic illnesses and injuries, infectious diseases, environmental and occupational diseases, nosocomial and iatrogenic illnesses
- National and international comparisons

ABORIGINAL HEALTH

In order to support partners concerned with the health and well-being of Aboriginal populations, we adapt and make the most of knowledge and skills from other fields of expertise and apply them to Aboriginal settings.

- Adaptation of the Institute's services and public health programs
- Support for research development in an Aboriginal context
- Specific surveillance systems

contact information for the Institute

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Ressources humaines (Human Resources) 418-650-5115, ext. 3650		
Ressources informationnelles (Information, Technology and Systems) 418-650-5115, ext. 5781	Infocentre de santé publique (Public Health InfoCentre) 418-650-5115, ext. 5770	
Planification, recherche et innovation (Planning, Research and Innovation) 418-650-5115, ext. 5730	Connaissance-surveillance (Monitoring and Knowledge) 418-650-5115, ext. 5701 Collaboration internationale (International Collaboration) 514-864-1600, ext. 3733 Études et analyses de l'état de santé de la population (Population Health Status Studies and Analyses) 514-864-1600, ext. 3700	Formation (Training) 514-864-1600, ext. 3721 Santé des Autochtones (Aboriginal Health) 418-650-5115, ext. 5259
Développement des individus et des communautés (Individual and Community Development) 418-650-5115, ext. 5504 or 514-864-1600, ext. 3501	Développement et adaptation des personnes (Development and Adaptation) 514-864-1600, ext. 3501 Développement des communautés et Villes et villages en santé (Community Development and City Projects) 418-650-5115, ext. 5504 or 514-864-1600, ext. 3501	Habitudes de vie (Lifestyles) 514-864-1600, ext. 3501 Sécurité et prévention des traumatismes (Safety and Injury Prevention) 418-666-7000, ext. 406
Systèmes de soins et services (Health and Social Services Systems) 418-650-5115, ext. 5601 or 514-864-1600, ext. 3601	Systèmes de soins et services (Health and Social Services Systems) 418-650-5115, ext. 5601 Politiques publiques (Public Policy) 514-864-1600, ext. 3628	Services cliniques de dépistage (Clinical Screening Services) 418-650-5115, ext. 5510
Risques biologiques, environnementaux et occupationnels (Biological, Environmental and Occupational Risks) 418-650-5115, ext. 5200	Contrôle, prévention et surveillance des maladies infectieuses (Infectious Diseases Control, Prevention and Monitoring) 514-864-1600, ext. 3220 Maladies transmises par le sang, MTS et VIH/sida (HIV/AIDS, STDs, Blood-borne Diseases) 514-864-1600, ext. 3275	Immunisation (Immunization) 418-666-7000, ext. 415 Santé et environnement (Environment and Health) 418-650-5115, ext. 5220 Santé au travail (Occupational Health) 514-864-1600, ext. 3250
Toxicologie humaine (Human Toxicology) 418-650-5115, ext. 5254	Laboratoire de toxicologie (Toxicology Laboratory) 418-650-5115, ext. 5100	
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