

Public Health Inspector

Inspect restaurants, pools, daycares and water systems so people do not get sick. A 4-year degree, a government job and a pension.

TYPICAL PAY

\$94,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$61k to \$117k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Public health units, restaurants, pools, water plants

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Grade 12 biology or chemistry, English and math. Admission averages are moderate, about 70% and up.
- 2 Accredited degree** 4 years
 Only six schools are accredited by the Board of Certification: BCIT (British Columbia Institute of Technology), Cape Breton University, Concordia University of Edmonton, Conestoga College, Toronto Metropolitan University and Université de Montréal. Courses in microbiology...
- 3 Practicum** 12 weeks
 At least 12 weeks (420 hours) at an approved health unit, supervised by a certified inspector. Built into the degree.
- 4 Certification exam** After graduation
 Two written inspection reports plus an oral board exam, held each April and October. Pass and you earn the CPHI(C) (Certified Public Health Inspector, Canada) credential.
- 5 First job** Months
 Health units hire new grads as inspectors. You start with routine food and pool inspections and get the complaints and outbreaks as you gain experience.

Pros and cons

- + Government job with a pension and union protection
- + Out of the office most days, and every day is different
- + You prevent illness for thousands of people
- Only six schools offer the degree, so you may have to move
- Owners argue, lie and sometimes threaten you
- Outbreaks and emergencies mean unpredictable hours

Good to know

Walkerton changed the job

In 2000, E. coli in the drinking water of Walkerton, Ontario killed 7 people and made more than 2,000 sick. The inquiry that followed rewrote Ontario's water rules and gave inspectors far more power over...

You can look up your favourite restaurant

Most big-city health units post inspection results online. Toronto's DineSafe program puts a green, yellow or red sign in the window of every restaurant based on what the inspector found.

Optional boosts

Food safety with a federal agency. Drinking water and wastewater. Outbreak and emergency response. Occupational health and safety.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Public health inspectors, wages (updated Aug 2026)
 CIPHI (Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors): certification process
 Toronto Metropolitan University: Public Health (Bachelor of Applied Science)

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/public-health-inspector>



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