**June 24, 2022**

**An Update from Dr. Ninh Tran, Acting Medical Officer of Health at Southwestern Public Health**

 **Public Health: What You Need to Know**

**MONKEYPOX**

* Effective June 16, 2022, monkeypox was designated a Disease of Public Health Significance, and as such, is reportable to public health (no longer Public Health Ontario). Here is [how to report to Southwestern Public Health](https://www.swpublichealth.ca/en/partners-and-professionals/infectious-diseases-and-reporting.aspx#Monkeypox).
* Refer to the Southwestern Public Health [monkeypox update for health care providers](https://www.swpublichealth.ca/en/partners-and-professionals/resources/Health-Care-Providers/Alerts-Advisories-Updates/Info-Updates/2022-06-21---Monkeypox-Update-for-June-21-2022.pdf) issued on June 21 for full details on new processes and resources.
* **NEW**: Middlesex-London Health Unit is hosting a limited number of **pre-exposure** prophylaxis vaccination clinics for people who may be at highest-risk of exposure to monkeypox. The clinics have specific eligibility criteria. Read their [health care provider update](https://link.upkne.com/v/443/2863e414fb666b4a17891bed5b3b85077a101ebef43775d9) for full details.

**SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC**

* Southwestern Public Health is reminding all sexually active individuals to seek STI testing on a regular basis – [refer to the National Coalition for Sexual Health for insights on how often to test](https://nationalcoalitionforsexualhealth.org/media-center/ncsh-in-the-news/this-is-how-often-you-need-to-get-tested-for-stds-based-on-your-relationship-status).
* Please remind clients and patients at sexual health-related and routine health visits that this service exists.
* Visit [www.swpublichealth.ca/sexualhealth](http://www.swpublichealth.ca/sexualhealth) for clinic hours and available services.

 **RABIES VACCINES**

* Reminder: Completion of the PEP vaccination series is key part of rabies prevention programming. Hospital emergency departments can administer the Rabies Immune Globulin (Rablg) and first dose of vaccine. After this, the patient’s health care providers office is to be the first option in completing the series. Read the [Management of Potential Rabies Exposure Guidelines](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/protocols_guidelines/Mgt_of_Potential_Rabies_Exposures_2020.pdf) for reference.
* Review the *Ontario Public Health Standards* statement regarding series administration:
	+ **Schedule & Dosage for Immunocompetent Persons**:

For PEP of immunocompetent persons previously unimmunized with rabies vaccine, four 1.0 mL doses should be administered IM. The first dose of the four-dose course should be administered as soon as possible after exposure (day 0). Additional doses should be administered on days 3, 7 and 14 after the first vaccination.

* For more information, please reach out to the Environmental Health Team. 1-800-922-0096

**HOMEBOUND COVID-19 VACCINATIONS**

* Effective June 30, 2022, Southwestern Public Health will end its homebound visits for COVID-19 vaccines. Clients who request one will be directed to contact their primary care provider.

**SHORTAGE IN SPECIALIZED INFANT FORMULA**

* Canada is currently experiencing a shortage of infant formulas for infants with food allergies and certain medical conditions. The formulas affected include extensively hydrolyzed formulas and amino acid-based formulas. There is no current shortage of **regular** infant formula in Canada. Refer to the below information and resources:
	+ **Fact Sheet for Families and Caregivers:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/infant-care/infant-formula/shortage.html>.
	+ **Health Canada’s Interim Policy:** [Interim policy on the importation and sale of infant formulas, human milk fortifiers (HMF) and metabolic products for inborn errors of metabolism to mitigate shortages.](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/legislation-guidelines/policies/interim-policy-importation-sale-infant-formula-human-milk-fortifiers-metabolic-products.html) These formulas will be available in pharmacies. It is strongly recommended that they be kept behind the pharmacy counter to better control inventory and reserve them for infants who need them most.
	+ **National Clinical Decision Tree:** A national clinical decision tree entitled, “[Use of Specialized Infant Formula during a Shortage](https://www.cps.sk.ca/iMIS/Documents/News/Decision%20tree%20for%20the%20shortage%20of%20hypoallergenic%20formulas%20June060622%20final.pdf)” has recently been developed to support health care providers to temporarily guide treatment decisions.
	+ **Ontario’s Inherited Metabolic Diseases (IMD) Program:** Since March 2022, the Ontario Ministry of Health has added over 10 metabolic formula products to the list of products reimbursed through the Inherited Metabolic Diseases (IMD) Program, to provide patients with alternatives during this shortage.

**LYME DISEASE REMINDER**

* Southwestern Public Health is accepting ticks that have been removed from humans for identification only. The National Microbiological Lab is **no longer testing ticks** for Lyme disease surveillance.
* Only deer (blacklegged) ticks transmit Lyme disease, which is caused by the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi*. However, other ticks can carry other tick-borne diseases.
* In clinical assessments for Lyme disease, consider the patient’s history of travel. Refer to the [2021 Lyme Disease Risk Map](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/o/2021/ontario-lyme-disease-risk-area-map-2021.pdf). **Oxford County and Elgin County contain tick risk areas.**
* **RESOURCES:**
	+ [Quick reference guide for patient assessments](https://www.swpublichealth.ca/en/my-health/resources/Lyme-Disease-Quick-Reference-for-HCPs.pdf) regarding diagnosis, treatment, and reporting of Lyme disease (Southwestern Public Health)
	+ [Guidance for laboratory testing](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/lyme-disease-serology.) (Public Health Ontario)