

Public Health Update from Southwestern Public Health



For Health Care Providers in Oxford County, Elgin County, and the City of St. Thomas

July 15, 2022

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

Public Health: What You Need to Know

MONKEYPOX VACCINE CLINICS

- Southwestern Public Health 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 are by appointment only and have specific eligibility criteria.
- Currently scheduled clinics (additional clinics may be offered – please www.swpublichealth.ca/sexualhealth-monkeypox for additional details):

Thursday July 14 & 21 in St. Thomas (9-3)
1230 Talbot Street, St. Thomas
Call to book: 519-631-9900 x1278

Friday July 15 & 22 in Woodstock (9-3)
410 Buller Street, Woodstock
Call to book: 1-800-922-0096, follow prompts to connect to the Sexual Health team

- Current PrEP Eligibility (from [Monkeypox Vaccine Guidance for Health Care Providers](#))
 1. Trans- or cis-gender individuals who self-identify as belonging to the gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) community AND at least one of the following:
 - Have received a diagnosis of bacterial STI (i.e., chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis) in the past 2 months;
 - Have had two or more sexual partners within the past 21 days or may be planning to;
 - Have attended venues for sexual contact within the past 21 days (i.e., bath houses, sex clubs) or may be planning to, or who work/volunteer in these settings;
 - Have had anonymous sex in the past 21 days (e.g., using hookup apps) or may be planning to;
 - Engage in sex work or may be planning to, and their sexual contacts.

MONKEYPOX RESOURCES

- Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance website is an excellent patient-facing resource – www.gmsh.ca/monkeypox.
- A routine monkeypox epidemiological report from Public Health Ontario is published twice per week on Tuesdays and Fridays on [the PHO Monkeypox website](#).

Southwestern Public Health
www.swpublichealth.ca
1-800-922-0096



WEBINAR - MONKEYPOX: HOW TO RECOGNIZE IT, HOW TO MANAGE IT

- The OHTN will once again be hosting a webinar on monkeypox next Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 7pm EST. [Click here](#) for details.

EXPANDED COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER ELIGIBILITY

- On July 13, the Ontario government [expanded the COVID-19 vaccine second booster eligibility](#) to include people aged 18 to 59. **Adults who have a high-risk of severe illness** from a COVID-19 infection are recommended to receive a second booster as soon as possible.
- Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health advised **otherwise healthy adults aged 18-59** to make an informed decision about second dose booster timing, or to speak with their primary care provider about whether now is the right time for a second booster.
- Below is guidance adapted from the Ministry of Health for with patients in your roster:
 - Most individuals aged 18-59 will continue to have strong protection more than six months after their first booster dose.
 - Expanded eligibility is targeted at individuals who have higher personal risk of a COVID-19 infection (e.g. but not limited to – underlying health conditions, high-risk workplace, living with vulnerable individuals, etc.).
 - A new bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is anticipated to be approved by Health Canada this fall, which may offer more targeted protection against the Omicron variants. While timing of this vaccine is currently not known, being vaccinated with a second booster in July may or may not impact the timing of a bivalent vaccine booster dose this fall, specifically if the minimum interval between doses has not yet occurred; careful counselling of individual patients requires a risk-benefit conversation based on individual medical condition, personal exposure risk, and household situation.
- Refer to the Southwestern Public Health [healthcare advisory](#) for details, including local vaccine clinic availability. Patients are reminded to expect long line-ups due to increased demand, particularly over the next two weeks.

OMICRON-CONTAINING BIVALENT BOOSTER VACCINE

- *Adapted from Wellington-Dufferin Peel Public Health:* The Moderna vaccine mRNA-1273.214 – which in clinical trials demonstrated superior antibody response against Omicron – are expected to be available in limited amounts this fall. The Moderna vaccine mRNA-1273.214 will contain the BA1 variant.
- Vaccines against the circulating BA4/5 variants are under development and are expected at the end of this year.
- NACI has not yet commented on the interval between receiving a booster dose this summer and a bivalent booster dose this fall.
- Based on all previous guidance, there will be a minimum interval (likely 84 days or 3 months) as well as an optimal interval.

COVID-19 VACCINE: PAEDIATRIC FORMULATION

- On July 14, 2022, [Health Canada authorized Moderna Spikevax](#) COVID-19 vaccine for use in children 6 months to 5 years. We do not yet know when supply will arrive in the region and will update you as details are shared.

UPDATE: LYME DISEASE & TICKS

- Over the last 4 years, the estimated rate of Lyme disease has increased five-fold in the Southwestern Public Health jurisdiction from 0.96 cases per 100, 000 in 2017 to 4.93 cases per 100, 000 in 2021.
- Between January 1, 2021 and June 24, 2022, thirteen (13) [confirmed](#) cases and four (4) [probable](#) cases of Lyme disease were reported to Southwestern Public Health.

- Areas within the Southwestern Public Health region have been added to the [Lyme Disease Estimated Risk Areas in Ontario](#) map.
- **Post-Exposure Prophylaxis:**
 - The risk of developing Lyme disease following a tick bite by an infected tick is between 1% and 3%.
 - In Ontario, the prevalence of infected ticks varies by geographic region.
 - Based on the best available evidence, post-exposure prophylaxis can be considered if these four criteria are met:
 - The tick was attached > 24 hours
 - The tick was removed within the past 72 hours
 - The tick was acquired in a risk or endemic area
 - Doxycycline is not contraindicated
 - If all the above criteria are met:
 - A single prophylactic dose of doxycycline may be given to adults (200mg) and children (for children under 45kg, 4 mg/kg to a maximum dose of 200 mg). Recent research suggests a single dose of doxycycline is safe for pregnant women.
 - If doxycycline is contraindicated, do not offer an alternative antibiotic. Antibiotics other than doxycycline have not been proven effective.
 - As post-exposure prophylaxis is not 100% effective, patients should be monitored for the development of signs and symptoms for 30 days.
 - Visit the [Centre for Effective Practice website](#) for general management of patients presenting with tick bite or history of tick bite ([diagram](#)).
- **Reporting Requirements**
 - Clinically diagnosed and laboratory-confirmed Lyme disease cases are reportable to Southwestern Public Health ([form](#)).
 - As per the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA), health care providers, including registered naturopaths, have a duty to report if they form the opinion, while providing care, that an individual has or may have a [disease of public health significance](#), such as Lyme disease.
- **Additional resources:**
 - [Clinical Guidance: Management of Tick Bites and Investigation of Early Localized Lyme Disease](#), HQO
 - [Clinical Practice Guidelines by the Infectious Diseases Society of America](#), IDSA
 - [Tick Identification: etick.ca](#) NOTE: Southwestern Public Health accepts ticks removed from humans for identification only. The National Microbiology Lab has discontinued blacklegged tick testing for passive surveillance.
 - [Diseases of Public Health Significance List](#)
 - [Clinical Guidance Document: Management of Tick Bites and Investigation of Early Localized Lyme Disease, Health Quality Ontario, 2018](#)