



Public Health Update – August 2019

Please circulate this notice to your staff

Preventing Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Lapses Checklists for your Office

- Regulated Health Professionals do not receive regular inspections by public health, but we are mandated to initiate an investigation for all IPAC complaints in clinical office settings.
- IPAC lapse occurs when there is deviation from IPAC best practices resulting in possible infectious disease transmission to patients, clients or staff.
- New IPAC checklists from Public Health Ontario (PHO) can be used to evaluate the Infection Prevention and Control practices in your office and can be found at this link: [Resources for Preventing Infection Prevention and Control Lapses](#)

Changes to Mandatory Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Reporting Requirements to SWPH

- Chlamydia is the most common STI in the SWPH region. The incidence rate has increased over the last five years for both SWPH and Ontario. Gonorrhea is much less common than chlamydia, however, the incidence rate of gonorrhea has also increased over time for both SWPH and Ontario.
- To improve chlamydia and gonorrhea case management, effective September 1, 2019 all health care providers in the SWPH region who receive a positive chlamydia or gonorrhea lab result must complete the Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Mandatory Reporting form (attached). It can also be found on our website at: <https://www.swpublichealth.ca/reportable-disease-forms>
- Coming soon this form will be available for download to your EMR.
- Appropriate testing and treatment of gonorrhea is key in reducing the spread of this infection. You can find management guidance in these new PHO documents:
 - [Public Health Ontario Bacterial STI Quick Reference](#)
 - [Public Health Ontario Gonorrhea Treatment Quick Reference](#)

New Resource: Free and Low-Cost Activities for Older Adults

- The Age Friendly Community Plan for Elgin St. Thomas identified a need for more information about affordable recreational opportunities for seniors.
- Research demonstrates that participating in social and recreational activities is one way for older adults to prevent social isolation.

- In support of the age friendly strategy and to increase access to local recreation, Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) releases a resource on [Free and Low Cost Activities for Older Adults in Elgin St. Thomas](#).
- Please distribute this resource to older adults to encourage physical activity, enhance social connections, and prevent falls. For hard copies, contact Jessica Lang at jang@swpublichealth.ca

Update on Rifampin Drug Shortage in Ontario

- The national shortage of Rifampin 150 mg and 300 mg, indicated for the treatment of active tuberculosis (TB) and latent tuberculosis infections (LTBI), is likely to last until September 2019.
- Ministry of Health and Long Term is monitoring all health unit's Rifampin inventory and prioritizing Rifampin usage.
- Active TB cases and those individuals who have already started treatment for LTBI will be the highest priority.
- Contact Infectious Diseases (extension 3500 at the Woodstock site or extension 1232 at the St. Thomas site) if you need to order Rifampin.
- Click on [Considerations for preventive treatment of latent tuberculosis infection \(LTBI\) during a rifampin supply shortage](#), for more information

Rabies Vaccine and Immunoglobulin Shortage

- Provincial supplies of rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin are expected to remain low until November.
- Please conduct a thorough risk assessment for all exposures to assist in appropriate use of limited supplies.

Protecting Your Patient from HIV Transmission - OntarioPrEP.ca

- Patient resources include:
 - Basics information [about how PrEP works](#)
 - An [assessment tool](#) for people to see if PrEP might be right for them
 - Information about [coverage options](#)
 - A searchable [PrEP clinic finder](#)
- The [healthcare provider](#) side of the website includes short training videos about different aspects of PrEP related care, [links to other learning resources](#), and information on connecting with the OHTN

Update Resources on Measles Management Information from Public Health Ontario

- [Measles Information Webpage](#) - summarizes pre-travel immunization advice and encourages clinicians to vaccinate those with unknown immunization information, rather than ordering serology. *Individuals travelling outside of North America, and to areas of known measles activity within North America, should ensure they are adequately protected prior to travelling.*
- [Measles: Information for Clinicians](#) - includes information on immunization, serological laboratory testing of immunity, measles case investigations and advice on office IPAC.
- *Serological testing to determine immunity in well individuals is **not** recommended.* If a patient's immunization records are unavailable, immunization with measles-containing vaccine is preferable to ordering serology to determine immune status. This avoids the potential for false positive results, reduces the risk of missed opportunities for immunization and is consistent with advice from the Canadian Immunization Guide. It is safe to give additional doses of MMR vaccine to those who are already immune. Note: This does not apply to specific occupational

groups such as healthcare workers who require either documentation of immunization or serologic proof of immunity.

- Consider measles in patients presenting with fever and rash and other measles symptoms (cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis), among those with recent travel or those with known contact with a measles case.

Breastfeeding in Oxford

- The [Infant Feeding in Oxford County](#) report provides key information on infant feeding practices. Oxford County breastfeeding rates compare favourably with the provincial rate but there are still areas which could improve with interventions.
- The breastfeeding drop-off rate is high at certain time points, specifically birth to one month of age and at the three months and four months time points. Mothers continue to report “not enough milk” as the most common reason for stopping breastfeeding.
- Prenatal and breastfeeding education classes (online or in class) are primarily attended by higher income families. Consider providing education and pointing out resources to lower- and middle-income families.
- Health Canada and the Canadian Pediatric Society recommend the introduction of solid foods at or about six months of age. The report shows that in Oxford County solid foods are most commonly introduced between five and six months but there still is a significant number of babies who receive solids prior to five months of age.