



Public Health Update – January 2018

Take a nasopharyngeal swab on suspect Pertussis cases

- Pertussis continues to circulate locally
- To assist with diagnosis and outbreak management, swab all suspect pertussis cases
- To order swabs, complete [this form](#) & fax to the London Public Health Lab (519-455-3363)
- Report suspect cases to the health unit

Plan ahead, order vaccine: School Notifications & Suspensions

During the week of January 23, the Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit will send notification letters to attendees of the following elementary schools:

Aldborough Public School	Living Gospel Mission School
Amish - Fairview School	McGregor Public School
Amish - Four Corners School	Mount Salem Christian School
Amish - Friendship School	New Hope Baptist Academy
Amish - Pineridge School	New Sarum Public School
Amish - West School	Old Colony
Assumption Catholic School	Otter Valley
Calton Christian School	Port Burwell Public School
Church of God	Shiloh Christian School
Corinth Christian School	South Dorchester Public School
Davenport Public School	Springfield Public School
Dunwich Dutton Public School	St. Mary's Catholic School
Immanuel Christian School	Straffordville Public School
King's Academy	Summers Corners Public School

- Students missing mandatory immunizations or who have not provided records of receiving these immunizations will be suspended from school on **March 6, 2018**.
- Remaining elementary schools will receive notification letters **the week of April 5**. Students will face suspension from school on **May 16**, if immunizations and/or records are not updated.
- As a reminder, students born in or after 2010 must have 2 doses of varicella vaccine or must provide a completed medical exemption form to the Health Unit by the deadline.
- We encourage students to check their records with their Healthcare Provider, receive any outstanding immunizations, and report these immunizations to the Health Unit.
- Advise parents to report their children's vaccines to the health unit using our website www.elginhealth.on.ca/vaccineswork. **Thank you for being our partner in ensuring St. Thomas and Elgin is up to date on vaccinations!**

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Influenza Activity Summary

- Influenza activity is increasing across Canada. So far in Ontario, Influenza A (H3N2) has been the predominant virus, although Influenza B is circulating much earlier than usual this season and the number of detections is substantially greater this season compared to previous years.
- In Elgin St. Thomas, 15 lab-confirmed cases of influenza have been reported this season, (4 Influenza A and 11 Influenza B). Of the 4 Influenza A cases with sub-typing information available, 75% (3/4) have been sub-typed as influenza A(H3). The age of cases range from 6 – 94 years with 87% (13/15) > 65 years of age.
- To date, all institutional outbreaks have been Influenza B.
- Local emergency visits rates for FRI (febrile respiratory illness) continue to rise.

Influenza Vaccination

- In previous flu seasons, H3N2-predominant seasons have been more severe, especially among young children and older adults.
- Vaccine effectiveness (VE) against H3N2 viruses is typically lower than VE levels against influenza H1N1 and influenza B viruses.
- It's not uncommon for a flu shot to have VE of about 30 per cent against H3N2 viruses.

Website Links

Antiviral Medications for Influenza: Information for health care providers

- www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Antiviral_Medication_Influenza_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Diagnosis and Treatment of Influenza

- www.elginhealth.on.ca/professionals/pharmacies/influenza-treatment-vaccine
- 2017-2018 Testing Recommendations - www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/LAB_SD_121_Respiratory_Viral_Testing_Algorithm_and_Enhanced_Surveillance_Update.pdf

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