



Public Health Update – July 2019

Please circulate this notice to your staff

Gentian Violet May Increase Cancer Risk

- Health Canada has recently completed a safety review of products containing gentian violet and concluded that exposure may increase the risk of cancer.
- Health Canada advises stopping all drugs products containing gentian violet. This product has been used as a home remedy for treatment of infant and nipple candidiasis by breastfeeding mothers.
- Mothers who request information from Public Health Nurses will be advised against the use of gentian violet and directed to consult their physicians for treatment.

2019 Food Programs and Services Guide for Elgin County Now Available; Oxford in the Fall

- Do you have clients needing information on low cost or free meals, emergency food services, cooking programs, or gardening programs?
- Are you wondering what your options are for diabetes or nutrition education for your clients?
- The Elgin St. Thomas '*Food Programs & Services Guide*' will provide you with local options to address both needs.
- The Guide lists a variety of programs and services including, but not limited to:
 - food access programs, food banks and emergency food services, gardening programs, transportation to assist with groceries, and nutrition services by Registered Dietitians.
- For the most up-to-date version of the guide, visit our website at <https://www.swpublichealth.ca/> and search '*Food Programs and Services*'. You can download the complete guide or parts of the guide as needed.
- A full '*Food Programs and Services Guide*' for our Oxford location will be out later this Fall. In the meantime, you can visit our website as described above to access lists of 'Oxford County Food Assistance Programs' and 'Oxford County Registered Dietitian Support Services.'

Important Information for your Patients on Renal Dialysis

- There is a global shortage of the vaccine Recombivax HB® Dialysis (a high dose Hepatitis B vaccine specifically for adult dialysis patients). This shortage is expected to extend into 2020.
- The Ministry of Health released guidelines that support the interim substitution of the vaccine EngerixB® (commonly used in our publicly funded Grade 7 school program) for renal dialysis patients who would have received Recombivax HB® Dialysis vaccine.
- The guidance document can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/2RPDyKF>

- Renal patients who received a Hepatitis B vaccination series should have their anti-HBs titres evaluated annually. If their serology result falls below 10 IU/L, a booster dose should be provided. EngerixB® can be administered for the booster dose.

Education Opportunity – Antimicrobial Stewardship in Primary Care Continuing Education Program

- <https://uwaterloo.ca/pharmacy/degrees-and-professional-development/distance-education-continuing-professional-development/antimicrobial-stewardship-primary-care-continuing-education>

Handle Antibiotics with Care

- Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, spotlights the importance of using antibiotics responsibly in human medicine.
- Discover how unnecessary antibiotic use contributes to antibiotic resistance, why unnecessary use sometimes happens, and what we can do about it:
[HANDLE WITH CARE: Preserving Antibiotics Now and Into the Future Chief Public Health Officer of Canada's 2019 Spotlight Report](#)