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## Public Health Update

*Please circulate this information to your staff*

October 1, 2019

### Secondary School Student Immunization Review

In October, secondary school students will receive notices from Southwestern Public Health if their immunization records are not up to date. Students who are missing immunizations are required to have them administered by the following dates to avoid school suspension.

- **St. Thomas Site: December 17, 2019**
- **Woodstock Site: December 20, 2019**

Some students who are up to date will receive notices. This means public health has not received an updated record. Please provide records for them to share with public health. Also, please review your vaccine inventory and order vaccine if necessary. [Read this Health Information Update in its entirety](https://www.swpublichealth.ca/sites/default/files/userfiles/files/2019%2010%20Secondary%20School%20Immunization%20Record%20Review.pdf) (<https://www.swpublichealth.ca/sites/default/files/userfiles/files/2019%2010%20Secondary%20School%20Immunization%20Record%20Review.pdf>)

### Youth-Oriented Sexual Health Materials

This week Southwestern Public Health is using Instagram and Snapchat to reach out to area youth about their sexual health. The campaign addresses STI testing services (specifically gonorrhea and chlamydia) and sexual consent. We've also created an accompanying [poster](https://www.swpublichealth.ca/sites/default/files/userfiles/files/7483-). (<https://www.swpublichealth.ca/sites/default/files/userfiles/files/7483->

[Sexual%20Health%20Poster\\_Letter%20Size\\_FINAL\\_HR\\_No%20Crops.pdf](#)). Would you like one or more for your office or clinic space? Please email [communications@swpublichealth.ca](mailto:communications@swpublichealth.ca) with your request.



## Smokers' Helpline Phone Service Transferred to Telehealth Ontario

### smokers' helpline

As of October 1, 2019, Smokers' Helpline phone/calling services will be transferred to TeleHealth Ontario. For your patients, this means:

- Text and online support will continue under Smokers' Helpline
- The monthly "First Week Challenge Contest" will continue under Smokers' Helpline
- The current Smokers' Helpline phone number WILL NOT redirect to Telehealth after September 30. Patients must call the Telehealth number (1-866-797-0000 or toll-free TTY at 1-866-797-0007) for support. The cessation support through Telehealth will be provided by Social Workers.

## Health Canada Warning: Vaping Products

Health Canada is calling on healthcare providers to always ask patients, as part of their general history, whether they use drugs from any source, whether legal or illegal. Additionally, when otherwise healthy patients present with respiratory symptoms, healthcare providers should ask about the use of electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) products (devices, liquids, refill pods and/or cartridges) for vaping.



- Our Tobacco Enforcement Officers have observed an increase in complaints and inquiries

regarding vaping products, particularly among high school aged youth. Their observations are consistent with a BMJ study of Canadian youth aged 16 to 19, conducted by University of Waterloo Professor David Hammond, which found that between 2017 and 2018, vaping among this group increased by 74%.

- According to the US Centres for Disease Control, there have been 530 confirmed and probable cases of lung-related illnesses and 6 confirmed deaths linked to vaping in the United States.
- The Province is taking steps to monitor illnesses associated with vaping. In mid-September the Minister of Health announced that Ontario's public hospitals must provide the Chief Medical Officer of Health with statistical, non-identifying information related to incidences of vaping-related severe pulmonary disease.

## Rifampin 150 mg and 300 mg Shortage Over

The ongoing national shortage of Rifampin capsules 150 mg and 300 mg, indicated for the treatment of active tuberculosis (TB) and latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI), is resolved. Please resume your regular ordering process.

The Ministry of Health, Government Pharmacy supplies each health unit with the recommended medications for treatment of TB and LTBI so that patients do not have bear the cost of treatment. Contact SWPH Infectious Diseases (x 3500 Woodstock) or (x 1232 St. Thomas) if you need to order rifampin.

## Flu Season

Sanofi Pasteur has created a series of infographics related to the prevention of influenza in vulnerable populations, ie. those with COPD, Diabetes, Heart Disease or an age of 65+. We've posted those graphics to our website.

<https://www.swpublichealth.ca/professionals/pharmacies/influenza-treatment-vaccine>

### Receiving this by fax?

Please provide the health unit with your email address at [MOH@swpublichealth.ca](mailto:MOH@swpublichealth.ca) for easier access to the hyperlinks.

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