



1230 Talbot Street, St. Thomas, ON N5P 1G9

p: 519.631.9900 | 1.800.922.0096

f: 519.633.0468 | elginhealth.on.ca

Public Health Update – August

Fever after travel? Remember Chikungunya

Chikungunya virus infection is transmitted by mosquitos in the Americas, Africa and Asia.

Symptoms of infection include:

- high fever
- polyarticular joint pain (severe, symmetrical and localized to the limbs),
- rash, headache, myalgia, and nausea may also occur

Public Health Ontario's [Chikungunya: Information for health care providers](#) provides information on the epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of Chikungunya virus.

Chikungunya, Dengue and [Zika virus](#) are similar diseases transmitted by the same mosquito species. While there has been significant attention to Zika virus, each of these viruses are serious. Diagnosis and prevention should focus on all three together.

Guidance for Safe Alcohol, Opioid, Cannabis and Benzodiazepine-related prescribing

Women's College Hospital created a useful guide for primary care providers. See this link:

[Safe prescribing practices for addictive medications and management of substance use disorders in primary care: A pocket reference or family physicians.](#)

Limited Respiratory Viral Testing available until November

- Please be advised that the Public Health Ontario Lab (PHOL) has updated their [respiratory viral testing algorithm](#).
- PHOL will NOT be testing respiratory specimens from *emergency departments and ambulatory care between Jun 19 – Oct 31, 2017*. For ICU/CCU, in-patient wards and institutional respiratory outbreak settings, testing will occur. Patient setting must be indicated on the requisition to help triaging of specimens. If patient setting is not provided, the sample will NOT be tested.

Live Healthy

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