



Public Health Update – November 2017

Have you discussed safe driving with your senior patients?

- Do you need some patient-friendly resources to start the conversation? Please see the [Safe Driving](#) site by the Canadian Ass of Occupational Therapists. You will find easy-to-read information on safe driving tips for older drivers, driving and diabetes, stroke, Alzheimer's and more.

Are your patients of child bearing age travelling south? Wondering what to advise about Zika?

- See [Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health update](#) on Zika Virus.

Flumist not available until later November

- Due to shortages in inventory at the Ontario Government Pharmacy, FluMist Quadrivalent vaccine will not be available for order until the week of November 20th from ESTPH.

Pertussis Testing

- If you suspect a patient has pertussis and is **not** linked to the active outbreak at Faith Christian Academy or Church, please collect a nasopharyngeal swab using a special colourless transport medium.
- Because we are in a Pertussis outbreak situation, please ensure that your office is stocked with swabs.
- **To order specimen collection kits, complete the [attached form](#) and fax it to the London Public Health Lab at 519-455-3363.**

Pertussis Reporting

- Report all *suspected* and confirmed cases to Elgin St. Thomas Public Health by faxing the [reportable disease report form](#) to 519-631-1682 or by calling 519-631-9900 ext. 1232.
- If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Increased cases of Hepatitis A and Mumps in Ontario – be sure your patients are fully immunized.

See [here](#) for details. Key messages are as follows:

Hepatitis A (HAV)

- Increases seen in men who have sex with men (MSM), homeless, and illicit drug users
- Ask about travel. HAV outbreaks are happening in MSM in Europe, New York City, Chile, Brazil
- HAV vaccine is publicly funded for MSM, IV drug users, those with chronic liver disease, Hep B and C

Live Healthy

- HAV vaccine is recommended, but not publicly funded, for users of non-injectable illicit drugs, residents of communities at high risk for hepatitis outbreak, and travelers
- Two doses of HAV vaccine, at least 6 months apart, are recommended

Mumps

- Number of cases is up – 59% between ages 25-47 years; 40% had only one dose of vaccine
- Two doses of publicly funded MMR are recommended for the following:
 - Adults born after 1970 who are unimmunized or unsure of their immunization status if they are
 - Healthcare workers,
 - Post-secondary students,
 - Travelling outside of North America,
 - Based on the healthcare provider's judgement.
- Give doses at least 4 weeks apart
- Individuals born between 1970 & 1992 (now 25-47 yo) received only one dose of MMR. Due to the increased cases in Ontario, those who received only one dose of MMR should be encouraged to get a second dose.
- *If a patient's immunization record is not available or unknown, **immunization is preferred**, rather than order serology*

Give children (6 months to <18 years) the quadrivalent Influenza vaccine for broader protection

- Children have a higher burden of influenza B disease than adults. The quadrivalent vaccine offers protection against two B types instead of just one.
- Only use the trivalent vaccine for children if the quadrivalent vaccine is not available.

Live Healthy

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