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Public Health Update – December 2017

Take a nasopharyngeal swab on suspect Pertussis cases

- Pertussis continues to circulate locally
- Diagnosis is complicated by concurrent circulation of other respiratory viruses
- To assist with diagnosis and outbreak management, swab all suspect pertussis cases
- To order specimen collection kits, complete [this form](#) and fax it to the London Public Health Lab at 519-455-3363

New digital immunization yellow card now live at Elgin St. Thomas Public Health

- Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON) provides the public with a secure method of submitting immunization records to Public Health online and access to their records anytime, anywhere!
- We are piloting this system with Elmdale Family Health Organization.
- Check out our ICON site: <https://esthu.icon.ehealthontario.ca/#!/welcome>.

Treat Gonorrhoea with IM Ceftriaxone and Azithromycin

- First line recommended treatment for those above 9 years of age with confirmed or suspected uncomplicated urogenital gonorrhoea and their sex partners is **ceftriaxone 250 milligrams intramuscularly plus azithromycin 1 gram orally, administered at the same time.**
- There is mounting evidence of reduced gonorrhoea susceptibility to azithromycin. Public Health Agency Of Canada guidelines have removed azithromycin monotherapy as alternative treatment

Free On-line program to increase your skill at discussing Radon

- Next to smoking, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer and is linked to causing the deaths of 3,200 Canadians every year.
- Health Canada recommends action with levels greater than 200 Bq/m³.
- A Health Canada study found 7.6% of homes in Elgin St. Thomas had levels above 200Bq/m³. All homes have some level of radon. See [Infographic](#) for details.
- Talking to your patients about the need to test their homes is an important part of preventing radon-related cancer.
- Health Canada has designed a program, [Radon: Is it in your patients' home](#), in order to provide reliable, evidence-based information.
 - It only takes one hour to complete
 - The course is CME accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada

Live Healthy

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