

## Public Health Update – May 2018

### Meet the new Health Unit

- On May 1, Oxford County Public Health and Elgin St. Thomas Public Health merged
- Our new name is Southwestern Public Health (SWPH)
- All phone numbers, clinics, and services remain the same at this time

### Rectal and pharyngeal NAAT swabs now being accepted at Public Health Labs

- Effective April 9, 2018, Public Health Ontario Laboratory will accept rectal and pharyngeal site specimens for nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) of *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC). **NAAT is the recommended method for testing rectal and pharyngeal chlamydial or gonococcal infections, replacing culture.**
- This testing will be performed on the Hologic® Aptima Combo 2® CT and GC NAAT assay, and specimens should be collected using the Hologic® Aptima® Unisex Swab Specimen Collection kit.

### Hologic® Aptima® Unisex Swab Specimen Collection kit



Photo taken by Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

- **For more information:**
  - [https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/LAB\\_SD\\_128\\_CT\\_GC\\_NAAT\\_Rectal\\_Pharyngeal\\_Implementation.pdf](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/LAB_SD_128_CT_GC_NAAT_Rectal_Pharyngeal_Implementation.pdf)
  - [https://www.hologic.com/sites/default/files/package-insert/502258-IFU-PI\\_002\\_01.pdf](https://www.hologic.com/sites/default/files/package-insert/502258-IFU-PI_002_01.pdf)
- **To order test kits use the general supplies order form:**
  - [http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Specimen\\_Containers\\_and\\_Supplies\\_requisition.pdf](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Specimen_Containers_and_Supplies_requisition.pdf)

**Consider discussing sun safety with your patient.**

- Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Canada
- The incidence rates for melanoma continue to increase
- Refer your patient to our [sun safety website](#) for information on sunscreen, sunglasses, skin cancer checks, and more.

**TB SKIN testing services at SWPH**

- We offer TB Skin Tests on MONDAYS, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
- We read TB Skin Tests on WEDNESDAYS, 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
- Cost: \$40.00 per test
- TB Skin Tests are Free (publicly funded) for persons who are:
  - contacts of a person diagnosed with active TB;
  - new immigrants to Canada;
  - deemed medically necessary