

Date: Tuesday, May 2, 2023

1.0 General Health Updates – Dr. Linna Li, LGLDHU MOH

1.1 Measles

- There has been 1 recent case of measles in Toronto, related to an unvaccinated adult who had traveled from India. There has been a public health investigation; including vaccine clinics and follow up of contacts centred in the Toronto region (we do not have any contacts in our region).
- Measles is transmitting globally due to lower than usual vaccination as a result of COVID-19.
- We know that people across Ontario travel to other countries, including people in our region.
- It is possible that somebody in our region may get measles.
- Clinicians are asked to:
 - Consider measles, especially for those with respiratory symptoms and a measles-like rash and with travel history.
 - Vaccinate people who are not up to date for their measles vaccine, especially young children and immigrants (who may not have gotten the measles vaccine in their home country).

1.2 Expansion of Reportable Tick-Borne Diseases

The Province is expanding the list of the reportable tick-borne diseases to include Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, and Powassan virus.

- Lyme disease is a reportable virus borne by the black legged tick.
 - Three additional pathogens from this tick have been found in our region since 2018.
 - The Health Unit performs ‘tick dragging’ and submits them to the lab for testing fairly frequently.
- Anaplasmosis is currently active in LGL
 - Numbers are available from 2018/2021/2022 and the percentage of positivity ranges from 15-28% over this time frame.
- Only one tick tested positive in 2016 for Babesiosis but the pathogen could still show up from other regions in the future.
- These three pathogens could become reportable as soon as this summer.
- Positive test results from the lab will be reported to the PHU.
- HCP’s are asked to report to the Health Unit as well.
- Prevention is the key; the window for transmission is uncertain for these newer pathogens but they are not transmitted from person to person.

2.0 Vaccines and Clinics – Erin McLean, LGLDHU VPD Coordinator

2.1 Vaccine Ordering & Delivery

- COVID uptake has been slow, for the spring booster so the Health Unit is scaling back clinics and clinic hours.
- Routine immunization promotion continues. Last week was International Immunization Week so the Health Unit had promotions on the radio, in schools and on our website. We hope to see an uptake in attendance for immunization through HCP’s as well.
- Messaging to promote immunization has gone out for high school students heading off to post-secondary education in the fall.
- [Our website has a section specifically for health care professionals:](#)

Health Care & Dental Professionals

- You will see information for staff that includes our vaccine order form.
- If you are accustomed to having Dynacare deliver your vaccine orders directly to your location (through the health unit), you need to either let us know at which Health Unit site you will pick up your orders in the future - there is an area for this on the form.
- Please email your order forms; do not fax – they are often illegible when faxed.
- Christine is no longer the primary contact for VPD Orders so we ask that you use Vaccine Orders email: Vaccine.Orders@healthunit.org from now on.
- Fridge Inspections are ongoing.
 - Sticker Log Books are available through the vaccine order form as well.

3.0 Next Call: **Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.**