

## SUMMARY

### Monthly LGL Health Care Providers - Public Health Networking Call Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Posted summaries are available here: [Home](#) » [For Professionals](#) » *Health Care & Dental Professionals - Current Memos/Notices from Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit.*

#### Recording:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/GTr\\_fMle4\\_RZOEuVtTfKGLa4aXCrdH-TUVkcXgHmVwtMOL7ZfdI\\_jCOHved7Hrg5.JXTA0NC9IIKIKO\\_R](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/GTr_fMle4_RZOEuVtTfKGLa4aXCrdH-TUVkcXgHmVwtMOL7ZfdI_jCOHved7Hrg5.JXTA0NC9IIKIKO_R)

**Password:** ia2FbuW&

#### 1.0 Welcome – Dr. Linna Li, Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit Medical Officer of Health (Chair)

Welcome to all those in attendance. Recorded – posted on our HCP website section.

#### 2.0 General Health Updates – Dr. Linna Li, LGLDHU MOH

##### 2.1 Measles Update

- No Measles cases in LGL region, but continue to have sporadic investigations where individuals typically present with a rash without other clear risk factors like travel history or contact with a known Measles case.
- The Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario has sent out a memo to clinicians which will be included with this update, including; an update on what has been happening, key actions for HCPs and a set of resources, i.e. measles information for HCPs, Epi summary of recent cases, and a technical brief on infection prevention and control recommendations for care of people with suspected or confirmed measles.
- A reminder that a few Canadian cases have resulted in hospitalizations due to severe outcomes and the importance of following IPAC recommendations.
- OCFP also has a measles resource available.
- Measles vaccination eligibility is not straight forward. Public Health Agency of Canada has a Canadian Immunization Guide with a table that indicates who is considered immune which includes those that have received vaccines according to the recommended vaccination schedule. Typically those born before 1970 are considered immune. To be considered immune, HCPs should have two doses of the vaccine, or evidence of a confirmed infection or documentation of serology. The **Canadian Immunization Guide on measles** can be found [here](#).
- Currently there is a risk of shortage of Measles vaccine so focus needs to be on immunizing kids due to their increased susceptibility to infection and adverse outcomes.
- Our **Health Unit webpage for Healthcare Providers** can be found [here](#); people can scroll down a little to find the measles section, which includes an external **entrance screening poster** linked [here](#).

##### 2.2 Syphilis

- Have seen a rise in STI cases in Ontario in the past 10-15 years.
- Public Health Ontario has issued a case summary on all the congenital cases of syphilis recently seen in Ontario due to changing demographics of syphilis Infection. Syphilis has traditionally been seen in the MSM population, but is transitioning to the general population; this has resulted in higher risk of congenital syphilis. Risk factors for congenital syphilis include women that have not received prenatal care, or have been lost to follow-up or contracted the infection during their pregnancy after initial testing, individuals who use unregulated substances, individuals who engage in sex in exchange for shelter or those involved in sex-work. A reminder to clinicians caring for pregnant women with high-risk factors to consider testing for syphilis again in the third trimester closer to time of delivery.

- Highly recommend the **Public Health Ontario report on congenital syphilis** which can be found [here](#).

### 2.3 MPOX

- There has been a rise in cases in Ontario in MSM population. Publically covered vaccine is available and is considered very effective.
- The World Health Organization has released news of the mpox outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa which is epidemiologically very different from mpox clade II currently circulating in Canada. Mpox clade I has a higher fatality rate.
- A **Public Health Ontario report on MPOX** epidemiology can be found [here](#).

### 2.4 Health Unit (HU) merger

- As of last Thurs, Mar 28 we have Board of Health intention/motion to merge with Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington HU and Hastings and Prince Edward Counties.
- Timeline for legal merger is Jan 1, 2025, but anticipate change happening over a number of years.
- Focus on continuing our local service provision and make sure our service deliver is appropriate for our demographics of mixed rural and urban settings. We are currently evaluating program delivery and making adjustments based on population needs. We are in post-pandemic recovery and will be continuing our assessment of program delivery needs, and reviewing any need for changes from our current program deliver to what we have assessed the population needs.
- Province is undertaking a review of the Ontario Public Health Standards in 2024. These foundational documents provide the scope and approach for local public HU's work. New standards are projected to be in place by 2025 and could result in substantial change to the scope of the work that the HU does. As changes come about, we will share that information.

## 3.0 Vaccine – Jennifer Adams, Clinical Services Manager

### 3.1 Spring COVID Booster Campaign

- The fall booster campaign wrapped up on February 29, 2024.
- The MOH is recommending a spring booster dose to be offered to individuals who are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.
- The spring booster campaign will run from April to June.
- The MOH is recommending those who fall into the categories below be offered a single dose;
  - Adults over the age of 65.
  - Adults residing in Long Term Care Homes or other Congregate Living Settings.
  - Individuals 6 months of age or older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (due to an underlying condition or treatment).
  - Individuals 55 years of age and older who identify as First Nations, Inuit or Metis and their non-indigenous household members 55 years of age and older.
- **All other individuals are not currently recommended to receive an additional dose of COVID - 19 vaccine in the Spring of 2024 and should wait for further MOH recommendations. This includes individuals who did not receive a Fall booster dose.**
- Updated **Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine guidance** can be found [here](#).

### 3.2 Seasonal Vaccine Update – RSV

- RSV remains stable and at levels expected for this time of the year.
- HCPs should wind down their public funded vaccine programs for eligible high risk groups.
- Details regarding the 2024-2025 RSV vaccine program will be shared closer to Fall 2024.

## 4.0 Meeting Adjournment – Next Meeting **Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 8:00 AM**

**Attachment:** CMOH Memo – Increase in Measles – 2024-03-27