

## Leeds, Grenville & Lanark Health Care Providers – Southeast Public Health (SEPH) East Call

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 8 AM

*Posted summaries are available here: [Home](#) » [For Professionals](#) » [Health Care & Dental Professionals](#) - Current Memos/Notices from Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit. Call is recorded. To receive updates, subscribe to the <https://healthunit.org/for-professionals/health-care-dental/> page.*

### Zoom Recording:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/zL15QLb5myl4pX6Xhav0ea2FylnDT8TjdqUKonsQlpu\\_Jyw8PINBlzMFFcvu4foV.jiwwHBhC4Ycnllnk](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/zL15QLb5myl4pX6Xhav0ea2FylnDT8TjdqUKonsQlpu_Jyw8PINBlzMFFcvu4foV.jiwwHBhC4Ycnllnk)

**Passcode:** \$SalB7tn

**Chair:** Dr. Linna Li, Deputy Medical Officer of Health (DMOH) - East Region

**Guest:** Clint Shingler, Health System Liaison Manager

### 1.0 Welcome / Opening Remarks – Dr. Linna Li, DMOH East Region

- Welcome greetings extended. A special welcome and introduction to Clint Shingler, SEPH Health System Liaison Manager.

### 2.0 Respiratory Season – Dr. Linna Li, DMOH East Region

- This season's flu A is likely to be dominated by H3N2 subclade K. Typically we see that the season peaks about 6 weeks after we reach 5% positivity for flu, which puts this year's projected peak in late December/early January.
- This means there's still time to vaccinate.
- Remember that it takes about 2 weeks for any vaccine to be maximally effective, so please vaccinate as many people as possible in the next 2 weeks or so.
- But also remember that a peak doesn't mean infections stop happening afterwards, so it will still be worth people's while to get vaccinated after December/January.
- You may have seen some questions about whether the flu vaccine is as effective for subclade K for H3N2.
  - The flu vaccine this year does include a H3N2 component, but was created before the flu virus had mutated to subclade K. This means the H3N2 component isn't as good of a match this year as in previous years. The technical term for this is 'antigenic drift'.
    - This happens sometimes. Sometimes the flu vaccine is still pretty effective; other years it's not so good a match.
  - Having said that, in general the flu vaccine does offer protection against strains that aren't a perfect match, so it's still worth receiving the vaccine this year.
  - The flu season in the UK this year is a good example: usually we can only get vaccine effectiveness information after the season is well under way. It happens to be that the UK had a very early flu season this year with H3N2 subclade K, and so they have really early vaccine effectiveness estimates this year. Their estimated vaccine effectiveness was around 35%. However, their vaccine is a slightly different formulation to our vaccines, so we can't say that *our* flu vaccine this year will have an effectiveness of 35%. But their imperfectly matched vaccine did have 35% effectiveness which is pretty good, so hopefully ours will be too.
- Included is a memo from the CMOH that's targeted mostly to LTCH/RHs but does have more information about this. (see *attachment*)

- While we're on the topic of vaccination, as always, the COVID-19 vaccine can be administered with any time interval with any other vaccine, and we highly recommend that flu and COVID-19 vaccines are given at the same time to maximize vaccination opportunities.
- As for the other respiratory viruses, right now COVID-19 and RSV are both pretty low and stable.
- And of course, when we talk about respiratory season, I always want to remind people that vaccination is important but not the only thing: hand hygiene, staying home when sick, masking, cleaning high-touch surfaces and optimizing indoor air also all play a part.

### 3.0 ISPA School Notices and Suspensions – Erin McLean, Immunization Coordinator

- Notices have been sent home to families in ALL grades for students missing any of their required doses under ISPA.
  - Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) went home in November
  - Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB) going home this week
- Suspension orders will be issued to all students with incomplete immunization records.
  - CDSBEO Week of January 19<sup>th</sup>
  - UCDSB Week of February 16<sup>th</sup>
- The messaging to families is to provide an up-to-date copy of the record directly to the Health Unit as soon as possible. (*see attachment*).
- Additional messaging has gone to the schools to provide them with information on expected roles for schools, parents, Health Care Providers (HCPs) and the Health Unit according to the legislation (*see attachment*).
- If a child is still needing vaccines, book with your own HCP or book into one of the Health Unit clinics.
  - We have added extra dates, times in our online booking system:
    - <https://reservation.frontdesksuite.ca/lgldhu/immunization>
  - We are looking at providing in-school clinics at the end of January in areas where the numbers remain high for potential suspensions.

### 4.0 Holiday Vaccine and STI Meds Order Schedule – Erin McLean, Immunization Coordinator

- **Holiday Season – Vaccine Orders**
  - **Thursday, December 11, 2025, by 2:00pm** will be the final day that we accept vaccine orders to be filled prior to the new year.
  - **Friday, December 12, 2025** – Vaccine orders will be delivered to our Health Unit offices in Smiths Falls, Kemptville, Almonte and Brockville. Gananoque orders will be out the following Wednesday, December 17, 2025.
  - **Friday, December 19, 2025** – Is the last day for vaccine orders to be picked up in Smiths Falls and Brockville (please note that for Almonte and Kemptville the last day will be on the Thursday, December 18, 2025).
  - Please have a contingency plan in case of fridge outages. Be strategic in your ordering.
  - We will resume our regular weekly vaccine order processing schedule Monday, January 5, 2026.

### 5.0 Office Closures – Dr. Linna Li, DMOH East Region

- You may have seen news about our intention to close branch offices.
- Although the majority of our public health services would not be affected by the closure of the branch offices, some services that had been offered in those offices will need to be relocated to other spaces in our communities.

- As a part of the commitment made in our original media release to introduce rural service strategies and continue to deliver services to rural communities, we have been connecting with community partners to arrange for new spaces for our offering services that are directly affected by the changes.

#### **6.0 Survey – Quick feedback re Communications from SEPH to HCPs – Clint Shingler, SEPH Health System Liaison Manager**

- I work out of the Kingston office and am involved in a number of things, one being a common liaison to all OHTs in the region, sitting on most of the committees and working groups that have been struct. Anyone on this call is invited to join every other Wednesday at 9 am.
- The next meeting is scheduled next Wednesday. I will be happy to add you if you are interested. Please contact me at [clint.shingler@southeastph.ca](mailto:clint.shingler@southeastph.ca).
- There are a number of harmonization processes going on right now. One that I am looking at in particular is the harmonization of our provider communications – the memos or summaries or newsletters from each of our legacy public health units are still carrying on as they were at this time, but we want to look at harmonizing that into a single set of product(s) and we want to take your feedback on the communications you are receiving now from the legacy LGL Health Unit as well as your feedback on what you would like to see from a harmonized product from Southeast Public Health.
- Survey has been created and was circulated Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – thank you to those that have already responded.
- If you haven't responded, please complete the survey before January 2, 2026. We welcome your feedback as we work towards a harmonized product for the region:
  - Survey: [Quick feedback request: Communication to health care providers – Fill out form](#)

#### **7.0 Next Meeting – Dr. Linna Li, DMOH East Region**

- January 2026 meeting is cancelled.
- Next meeting scheduled: Tuesday, February 3, 2026.