

SUMMARY

Monthly LGL Health Care Providers - Public Health Networking Call
Tuesday, January 9, 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/rzUkGY60wkN_GJHNunLZ-uVeeGz8XenvC7FqipAi5zviUTdK2ra5CtvY4ntfmSs.PtIHp5AYA7IS3Haa

Password: 4!JL76iQ

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

Welcome to our first Health Care Provider – Public Health networking call of 2024. Recorded and posted on our HCP website section.

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

2.1 Respiratory Transmission

We continue to experience respiratory transmission in the region.

COVID-19

- Currently we continue to have ongoing COVID-19 transmission both in the LGL region and Eastern Ontario. Trends indicate there may be some slowing in the growth of COVID-19 transmission.
- Broadly the rise of transmission may be slowing down in the eastern Ontario region.
- Locally our numbers seem to be relatively stable to rising.

RSV

- RSV transmission is either stable or even going down across Ontario.

Flu

- We are still in the beginning of the flu season.
- Locally, Flu is stable but likely to be rising across Ontario.

Recommend visiting the *Leeds, Grenville & Lanark Respiratory Virus Surveillance Dashboard* on our website produced weekly and posted on Tuesdays:

- <https://healthunit.org/health-information/covid-19/local-cases-and-statistics/dashboard/>
- Note the report is based on data collected for the previous week.

An Eastern Ontario Health Region respiratory analysis essentially echoes some of what we have been talking about – in addition, currently it appears hospitals are relatively pressured in the eastern region, especially around hospital admissions, though ICUs appear to be stable.

2.2 Revision to Botulism Guide

- Contact information for after hours has been updated on the provincial website which is one of the most critical elements of the guide.
- <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-ohps-ref-botulism-guide-for-health-care-professionals-en-2023-12-01.pdf>

2.3 Memo from the Office of CMOH – increase of Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS) in Ontario

- Invasive Group A Strep typically waxes and wanes in a multi year cycle globally – estimates range from 5 to 7 (even 10) years. Currently we are in a high-water mark globally for transmission of invasive Group A Strep including Canada, including Ontario.
- In general these invasive Group A Strep cases are most notable among 3 groups of people:
 - Infants and young children
 - Older adults
 - Individuals who use drugs, especially IV drugs.

3.0 Updates – Jennifer Adams, Clinical Services Manager

3.1 Influenza & Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Immunization Coverage Reporting

- Provincial package to report influenza and RSV vaccination rates that included a memo, survey link and Q & A documents which will be going out to hospitals and LTCHs today. A lot of our facilities are just starting to get their RSV vaccine on site and administered – hold off on completing the survey until you have completed vaccinating your residents.
- Reporting process for public hospitals and long-term care homes (LTCHs).
 - In addition to collecting influenza immunization coverage for hospital and LTCH staff, the Ministry is also asking LTCHs to report influenza and RSV immunization coverage of residents—RSV reporting is new.
 - Hospitals and LTCHs are to report immunization coverage rates by completing an online survey being administered by Public Health Ontario (PHO) on behalf of the MOH for the 2023-24 influenza season.
 - Deadline for reporting rates will be March 1, 2024.

3.2 Vaccine & Immunization

- Vaccine orders are going out this week – a friendly reminder to ensure you are submitting your temperature logs on an ongoing basis.
- Heads up (especially to primary care) that starting next week we will be sending the Ontario's Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) notifications to parents (about 6,000) of incomplete or non-compliant immunization records so you may get some inquiries about those vaccines.
- We won't be suspending students this school year but resuming the program for 2024-25.

3.3 [GetaKit](#) Program - [Sexual Health Clinics - Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit](#)

- The Health Unit is offering free, at home HIV self-test kits (finger prick) for residents of Leeds, Grenville and Lanark over 16 years of age (no Health Card required for HIV testing).
- These kits include requisitions for other sexually transmitted infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis – these tests are restricted to 18 years and over and require a Health Card.
- All results come back to the Health Unit as STI follow-ups.
- Neighbouring health units are participating.
- People must register on the website and provide their address – the address is very important as it determines which public health unit to send the results to.
 - We are promoting to primary care to in turn promote to their patients: [GetaKit.ca](#)

4.0 Format/Suggestions for this call

Send an email to Susan Merritt if you have any suggestions regarding format of this call (whether it is working well or not), or any topic ideas – especially educational.

5.0 Questions

Q: What is happening with the Kemptville Office?

A: We have moved to the Kemptville campus with partial occupancy and most of the renovations complete. We do not have the ability to have clients in yet because we are waiting for windows and AODA compliant doors to be delivered and installed. Alternate plans have been put in place to run some clinics – in building next door, some moved to other locations, some are delayed.

6.0 Meeting Adjournment – Next Meeting Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 8:00 AM