

SUMMARY

LGL HCPs - Public Health Networking Call

Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Please note that these meetings will be recorded in the future and posted on our website.

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

Welcome to all those in attendance. These monthly meetings are to connect with you, offer public health updates, and answer any questions you may have.

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

2.1 Province's iGAS Memo

Incidents of invasive Group A Streptococcal disease (iGAS) is trending upwards. Group A Strep colonization is common but detection in sterile sites indicates infection. Be aware and alert to potential iGAS infections; report iGAS to public health for follow-up. We may provide chemoprophylaxis for contacts of the infected person based on a set of criteria for severe infection. See the attached memo from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for more information.

2.2 Province's MPOX Memo

The Chief Medical Officer of Health has put out an mpox update with key messaging—both the memo and the key messages document are attached.

Mpox transmission continues to happen in Ontario and vaccination continues to be an effective method of preventing and reducing severity of infection. Only 20% of people who tested positive for mpox have received two doses; this does not give the same level of protection they could achieve with two doses. We have a supply of mpox vaccine; please send your patients our way.

2.3 Air Quality

The Air Quality Health Index this morning is 7 – 8, which is in the High Risk category. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks website provides [updates about the current risk level](#) for the air quality monitoring stations closest to us (Kingston, Ottawa, and Cornwall). The [health unit's website](#) has up to date information.

2.3 Lyme Prophylaxis from Pharmacies

The Government of Ontario has expanded medications that pharmacists can prescribe to include doxycycline for prophylaxis to prevent Lyme disease after a tick bite. The prophylaxis is only for those people that are asymptomatic—pharmacists cannot prescribe for those who are symptomatic. The algorithm for pharmacists can be found [here](#).

3.0 Vaccines and Clinics – Erin McLean, LGLDHU VPD Coordinator

3.1 Immunization Clinics at the Health Unit – Updates

Mpox vaccine is available at our immunization clinics. Once thawed, the vaccine expires after 8 weeks. We are asking that clients attend the clinic 15 minutes prior to their actual appointment to allow for thawing. Mpox will not be routinely offered because of its special storage needs.

3.2 Vaccine Ordering & Delivery Check-in

We are hoping to transition completely away from using the fax machine. An online form to order vaccines is available and located here: [Home](#) » [For Professionals](#) » [Health Care & Dental Professionals](#) » Immunization Resources. Options for seasonal influenza vaccine will be added closer to the fall.

A PDF version of the vaccine order form is available to download. Please email the completed form to: vaccine.orders@healthunit.com.

4.0 Cessation Support / Starter Packs for NRT – Debbie McIntyre, LGLDHU Smoking Cessation Coordinator

In follow up to our email last week we wanted to let you know about supports provided by the Cessation Team at the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit. If you provide the STOP Program at your office, or have another quit referral process this is not intended to replace that, but rather provide increased access to quit/reduce supports for your patients.

Our free Next Step Nicotine Cessation Meetings taking place in-person each month at both our Brockville and Smiths Falls locations (see attached poster). All are welcome regardless of where they are getting cessation supports. This is intended to address all stages of a quit attempt or reduction or maintaining a nicotine free lifestyle, please feel free to share and post this information.

We received an overwhelming response to the Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) Starter Packs, we offered. These starter packages contained a 2 – 4 day supply of patches and gum, and were intended to get your patients started on their quit journey. Evidence has shown that a few minute conversations with you can have the biggest impact in a patient's decision to make a quit attempt.

If you require any assistance with cessation support, education or resources please reach out to me directly or for general inquiries quit@healthunit.org.

Smoking and Vaping Cessation Information for health professionals is located here:

[Home](#) » [For Professionals](#) » [Health Care & Dental Professionals](#) » Smoking & Vaping Cessation

Brief Cessation Counseling is located here:

[Home](#) » [For Professionals](#) » [Health Care & Dental Professionals](#) » [Smoking & Vaping Cessation](#) » Brief Cessation Counseling

5.0 Assessment Centre Provider Update – Lisa McMartin / Sherri Hudson, Brockville Assessment Centre

- Stay tuned for more information about the future of the assessment centre in Brockville.

6.0 Next Call: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

- To reach out to more people who are unable to join us on these calls (and having received no objections), we will start **recording these sessions**.
- Posted summaries are available here: [Home](#) » [For Professionals](#) » Health Care & Dental Professionals - Current Memos/Notices from Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit.