

SUMMARY

Monthly LGL Health Care Providers - Public Health Networking Call Tuesday, November 7, 2023

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/YglzizRZmb-cCaRMfbo7e20uZNTqvlLezbMRJWN8w4K6-0GKmLVz29EmZeMD9dWP.DW6zwtDaAU_wxcp9

Passcode: 3M=v9zcU

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 Respiratory Season

- COVID-19
 - We continue to have high levels of COVID-19 transmission during the past month in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark (LGL). We do not get as much PCR testing as we once did; rapid testing is being done, but not captured by the Health Unit. Due to uncaptured numerators, number of cases per week are not representative of the number of cases in the public per week but can show some trends. Seeing higher trends than our baseline in the summer that show older adults, especially among 80+ - this cohort is more likely to receive PCR testing in relation to settings such as LTCHs, RHs, and hospital visits.
 - As a reminder, COVID-19 treatment (Paxlovid and Remdesivir) continues to be available. A positive result through PCR testing or rapid testing is required to receive treatment. PCR kits are available through participating pharmacies. Turn around is 1 to 3 business days.
 - Rapid COVID-19 (take home) test kits are available through all of our Health Unit offices as well as other settings, such as local pharmacies (the Health Unit does not keep a list of other settings that provide rapid test kits). The accuracy of rapid tests for symptomatic individual is around 70%; for asymptomatic, around 30% to 50%.
- Cycle Threshold (CT) Value
 - Eastern Ontario Laboratory elected to no longer release CT values. Assessments on cases have always been a clinical decision.
 - If you have questions, please contact the lab. If you would like to consult with public health, please contact Linna.
- Influenza
 - We continue to have relatively high ER visits due to respiratory and influenza-like illness, (another piece of evidence of continuing COVID-19 transmission).
 - Influenza is circulating in LGL - had first cases of flu in our region early last week. Expecting this trend to continue into next year. Not at the highest transmission levels yet – too early as we don't typically see that until nearer the end of the year.
 - Projection is that we will have a pediatrics dominant flu transmission season because there are a number of children that have not encountered many of these respiratory viruses like COVID-19 and influenza. We saw this in the southern hemisphere this past winter –greatest risk among infants as well as older adults.
 - More prolonged respiratory season projected as compared to last year.
- RSV
 - Continue to see variable transmission levels of RSV. There is limited RSV testing, so it is hard to gage real-time transmission.

- Highly recommend RSV vaccine (very safe vaccine): Administer to those 60 years and older, especially for those living in LTC and RHs.
- Caveat for RSV vaccine is that with vaccine fatigue, people may want the new vaccine rather than COVID-19 and flu vaccine. There may also be some confusion out there that RSV protects against other viruses – it does not.
-
- Highly recommend people receive both COVID-19 and flu vaccine as the highest priority. For those eligible for RSV vaccine, recommend receiving COVID-19 and flu vaccine first; wait two weeks before receiving RSV vaccine.

2.2 Recent Provincial Documents sent to Health Care Providers:

- Ontario Health COVID-19 Treatment Resources
 - Antiviral treatments for COVID-19 are an important tool to address the upcoming respiratory illness season. Ontario Health has developed two new resources to support the use of COVID-19 antiviral treatments:
 - [Recommendations on outpatient use of intravenous remdesivir \(Veklury\) in adults](#) (developed with the support of the Ontario Health Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee) – *attached*
 - [Guidance on how to access antiviral treatments for COVID-19 \(nirmatrelvir/ritonavir \[Paxlovid\] and remdesivir\) in the community](#) – *attached*
- Additional resources are available on Ontario Health's [COVID-19 Treatment website](#).

2.3 Ontario Health Supports for Respiratory Illness – *attached*

- <https://www.ontariohealth.ca/sites/ontariohealth/files/Supports-for-the-fall-winter-respiratory-illness-season-2023-10-13.pdf>

2.4 Respiratory Season Planning Resource Sheet (for Non-Health Sectors) – *attached*

- *Quick tips for non-health care providers speaks to strategies to prevent respiratory illness, vaccines available, who is at risk, etc.*

3.0 Immunization Update – Erin McLean, LGLDHU VPD Coordinator

3.1 Flu Vaccine

- First allotment went out by in October.
- You may have received less than what you asked for as we needed to equitably distribute the vaccine we received from Government Pharmacy. We are currently waiting on our next order.
- If you are waiting on more flu vaccine, please submit an order for the amount you still need using the online order form.

3.2 COVID-19 Vaccine

- Moderna XBB and Pfizer XBB – are available for all age groups now.
- Children 6 months – 4 years are now eligible for a booster dose, as long as it's been at least 6 months since last dose or last COVID-19 infection.
- Please monitor the time out of freezer and use before that date – Moderna is only 30 days, Pfizer is 10 weeks.
- Friendly reminder that data entry into COVAX is a requirement.
- Email COVAX enrolments COVAXenrolments@healthunit.org to get back in again if you are locked out.

3.3 RSV Vaccine

- Eligible recipients for free vaccine are Long-Term Care and 4 Retirement Homes that are licensed for dementia care.

- We are sending out RSV materials to homes so they can prep by sending out consents and updating medical directives.
- Pharmacies are still not able to administer RSV vaccine.
- There needs to be a 2 week interval before administering RSV vaccine after COVID-19 and flu vaccine administration.

3.4 Kemptville Office

- Kemptville Office is moving across the street to the college campus. The office will be closed for packing during normal vaccine pick-up.
- You will be notified directly on how we will provide vaccine pick-up.
- Q: KDH asked if we need to provide the health unit with numbers for our residents in Long-Term Care for RSV?
 - A: The Health Unit will create a very simple order form for RSV. RSV order form will not be posted on the website to avoid confusion; Jen Adams, Clinical Services Manager, is hoping to send that out later this week.

4.0 Meeting Adjournment – Next Meeting Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 8:00 AM