

PUBLIC HEALTH Notes

Working with you to protect and promote health and prevent disease



January – March 2008
Volume 18 (1)

What's Inside:

- Universal Screening of three year olds
- Therapeutic Abortions
- Reproductive Outcomes for Grey Bruce
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for Grade 8 Females
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD): Learning opportunities for Health Professionals
- Sodium Levels in Drinking Water: Sauble Beach
- Criteria for Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine
- Varicella Vaccine
- Clinical Rabies in Humans

Inserts:

- Rabies and Travel Information Evening registration form

Dear Colleagues;

I wish a healthy and happy new year to each of you. Thank you for your continued reporting of infectious diseases and for your commitment to many other public health endeavours in our community. Thanks especially to the doctors who work in the Public Health Sexual Health Clinics. The statistics show that you are doing a good job! Our community is healthier because of you.

Dr. Shiv Grewal has been the Associate MOH for the Grey Bruce Health Unit for the past two years. He has met with many of you and has presented infectious disease and pandemic planning workshops to hospital and community groups. He has travelled overseas, presented at conferences and workshops, and worked in under serviced areas of our world. He has done a great job, has lots of energy, and is fun to have around. We are sorry he will be resigning this month, as he finds his life too busy to continue to be the official AMOH. I will miss Shiv's cheerful visits and e-mails.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care offers incentive programs for doctors to obtain a Masters degree in public health. I encourage you to look into the program – continued learning is good for our aging brains! The material is very interesting and useful to those in medical practice, not just public health practitioners. For more information, contact HealthForce Ontario, executive director Brad Sinclair at 416-598-5986 or b.sinclair@healthforceontario.ca.

Together we build healthy communities.

Dr. Hazel Lynn
Medical Officer of Health

UNIVERSAL SCREENING OF THREE YEAR OLDS

Current Program: *Let's Learn Kindergarten Registration (LLKR)*

Public Health, in partnership with our local school boards and many community preschool services, provides annual growth and development screening of three year olds. Health and social services professionals meet with families of preschoolers to provide screening, education and pre-registration for kindergarten.

Children who are identified as having potential developmental challenges are linked to preschool intervention services. With these services in place, the children have improved opportunities to reach their full developmental potential.

Attendance and Referral Rates

Typically, 65-70% of three year olds in Grey Bruce attend LLKR for assessment. Screening results in a referral rate of about 10% of children. Services referred to, in order of frequency are:

- Integrated Preschool Speech and Language Services (speech/language delays)
- Grey and Bruce County Preschool Resource Programs (gross and fine motor delays)
- Healthy Babies Healthy Children Home Visiting Program (multiple issues; parenting information and support)
- Keystone Child, Youth & Family Services (behavioural issues)

What can Family Physicians Do?

1. Encourage your families with preschool children to attend LLKR for screening in the fall at their local school.
2. Direct families to Public Health for childhood screening at any age, and to receive Public Health's regular *Let's Grow* mail-outs (parenting information and parentally administered screening tools).
3. Call Public Health for a supply of growth and development screening tools for use with families in your office.

THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS

Reproductive Outcomes and Statistics for Grey and Bruce Counties provides an overview of pregnancy outcomes among teens (15-19 years) and adults (20-49 years) in Grey Bruce and Ontario between 1996 and 2003. Teen abortion rates decreased significantly in both Grey Bruce (44%) and Ontario (36%). Adult abortion rates slightly decreased in both Grey Bruce (18%) and Ontario (33%), with the 2003 rates at 4.5/1000 in Grey Bruce and 9.7/1000 in Ontario.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit provides pregnancy options counselling to women in Grey Bruce. Public Health Nurses in the Sexual Health Clinics provide pregnant women with information that allows them to make an informed decision about their three options. A referral is faxed to the Grey Bruce Family Planning Clinic with accompanying tests, including pap and swabs, ultrasound, and group/screen. The patient is asked to return to the Sexual Health Clinic three weeks post-procedure for follow-up assessment, counselling and an evaluation of the contraceptive method arranged prior to the procedure.

The Sexual Health Clinic provides resources to assist women considering abortion. The brochure *Unsure About Your Pregnancy* offers a framework to assist decision-making. The pamphlet *Information for Teens About Abortion* answers commonly asked questions about the procedure. For clients over 12 weeks gestation, the clinic provides contact information for self-referral to private clinics out of town. For copies of these resources to support your clients as you make your own referrals, call Public Health at 519-376-9420.

REPRODUCTIVE OUTCOMES FOR GREY BRUCE

A report released by the Grey Bruce Health Unit on the reproductive outcomes of Grey Bruce women shows trends in live births, fertility rates, multiple births, low/high birth weights, stillbirths, abortions, and maternal characteristics. The information was compiled using registered birth records from the Registrar General. Full copies of the report are available upon request.

Highlights from the report include:

- The number of live births in Grey and Bruce Counties over the past nine years has declined significantly (17% and 23% respectively).
- With an average of 1,314 births per year, Grey Bruce general fertility rates have remained relatively stable over the past four years, ranging from 34.6 to 36.7 live births per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years. These rates are about 14% lower than Ontario rates.
- There are approximately 35 multiple births per year in Grey Bruce.
- On average, 5.7% of all live births weigh less than 2,500 grams.
- Rates of high birth weight (HBW) are on average 25% higher in Grey Bruce compared to the provincial average. On average 16.8 % (or 231 births) of all births are considered HBW versus 13.4% for Ontario.
- There are approximately eight stillbirths per year in Grey Bruce.
- About 7% of all births are considered preterm.
- Trends show that there has been a 6% decline in the number of births attended by physicians in Grey Bruce.
- Teen pregnancy rates have declined over the past eight years by 43% in Grey Bruce and by 38% in Ontario. Grey Bruce teen pregnancy rates remain lower than the provincial rate.
- Over half of teen pregnancies in Grey Bruce result in a live birth which is higher than the provincial average at 42%.

Reference

Grey Bruce Health Unit. (December, 2007). *Reproductive Outcomes and Statistics for Grey and Bruce Counties – 2000 to 2003*. Report available upon request: aleffley@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) VACCINE FOR GRADE EIGHT FEMALES

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care recently clarified that the HPV vaccine will be publicly funded for females only during their grade eight school year and the following summer months. Once these students begin grade nine, the HPV vaccine will no longer be publicly funded, and payment becomes the responsibility of the parent. The HPV vaccine consists of three doses spread over four to six months.

For the 2007/2008 school year, grade eight female students who have not been immunized with the HPV vaccine will have until April 29, 2008, to begin the publicly funded series to ensure that all three doses are given prior to September 2008.

Public Health holds immunization clinics in Owen Sound, Walkerton and Port Elgin. The cost of the non-publicly funded vaccine administered by Public Health is \$150 per dose.

Reference

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (November 8, 2007). *Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Program for Grade 8 Females*.

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD): LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Workshop: *Growing Up Healthy with FASD*

Dr. Barry Stanley, MD and FASD Specialist will present as part of a workshop, *Growing Up Healthy with FASD*, at the Chesley Community Centre, March 18, 2008.

Dr. Stanley is a founding member and medical FASD consultant to FASD Hamilton Support Group, St. Michael's Hospital Support Group, and consultant to St. Michael's FASD Diagnostic Clinic. He is a member of the diagnostic subgroup of the FASD Ontario Stakeholders initiative and the Hamilton FASD initiative.

Dr. Karen Baker, Psychologist with Regional Support Associates, and a behaviour specialist will also present. A parole officer, an affected sibling and others will participate in a panel discussion.

Health professionals and family members are invited to attend. The workshop is organized by the FASD Community Mobilization Task Force with financial support from the FOCUS Project. For additional information and workshop registration, contact Beth Karrow, Grey Bruce Health Unit, at 519-881-1920 ext. 231.

New Accredited Online Course for Physicians and Health Professionals

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Module 1: Preventing and Addressing Alcohol Use in Pregnancy is an online course now available through the MDcme.ca web portal. This free course is accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for three Mainpro-M1 credits. The course provides important information on clinical practices related to assessing and influencing alcohol use in pregnancy. For more information, refer to the MDcme.ca website or contact Public Health.

SODIUM LEVELS IN DRINKING WATER: SAUBLE BEACH

The Medical Officer of Health received notification in January that the Trask Drinking Water System located in Sauble Beach had sodium levels > 20 mg/L. The reported sodium test result was 94.1 mg/L. Ontario Regulation 170 (*Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*) requires the Medical Officer of Health to be notified of sodium concentrations exceeding 20 mg/L in any regulated system. This information is being communicated to local physicians for their use with patients on sodium reduced or restricted diets.



PUBLIC HEALTH *Notes*

Published four times per year by the Grey Bruce Health Unit
920 1st Ave W, Owen Sound, ON N4K 4K5
Tel: 519-376-9420 Fax: 519-376-0605
www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca



Rabies and Travel Information Evening April 2008

*An evening for physicians and nurses who deal with vaccines.
Sponsored by Sanofi Pasteur.*

AGENDA

- 6:30 p.m. Registration, Appetizers
- 6:55 p.m. Dr. Hazel Lynn, Medical Officer of Health
- 7:00 p.m. Dr. Judy Shindman - Rabies Vaccine
- 7:40 p.m. Dr. David Colby - Travel Vaccines & Dinner

CHOOSE FROM 1 OF 2 VENUES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Grey Rose Restaurant
394 10th Street
Hanover

OR

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Cobble Beach Golf Links
Church Side Road East
Township of Georgian Bluffs

R.S.V.P by Wednesday, March 26, 2008

Phone 519-376-9420 Extension 365 or Fax this Form to 519-376-0980

Names	Venue Choice	Agency:
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	Address: <hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	Postal Code: <hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	Phone Number: <hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	Other: <hr/>