



Alert issued in response to opioid toxicity concerns in Grey-Bruce

- Public Health is reporting an alarming spike in recent drug poisonings, highlighting concerns about the toxicity of the local unregulated drug supply.
- 14 overdoses (one fatal) reported from Friday, March 31 to Sunday, April 2, 2023.
- Toronto's drug-checking service provides information on the contents of unregulated street drug samples tested by the service. Results: drugchecking.cdpe.org/

Lyme Disease Resources for Healthcare Professionals

- Incidence of Lyme Disease increasing significantly as populations of blacklegged ticks continue to spread.
- Lyme Disease "Estimated Risk Area" in Grey-Bruce is expected to be significantly larger in 2023, based on active surveillance by Public Health.

Risk of contracting other tick-borne diseases in Ontario expected to rise

- Ministry of Health, in response to increase in blacklegged tick populations, proposing to amend Regulation to designate Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, and Powassan Virus as diseases of public health significance.
- Diseases transmitted by ticks: [CDC Link](#).

CFIA reporting domestic dog has tested positive for avian influenza in Canada

- Based on current evidence, the risk to the general public remains low and the risk of a human contracting avian influenza from a domestic pet is minor.
- [Protecting pets from H5N1](#)
- [Ministry of Health "Emergency Planning & Preparedness" information on H5N1](#)

World TB Day 2023

- TB medication provided free of charge through Public Health.
- The new Canadian Tuberculosis Standards 8th Edition includes changes around Latent Tuberculosis Infection treatment regimens.

Ontario connecting children and youth with specialized care

- Pilot program will help link children/youth with complex needs, such as intellectual disabilities, mental health concerns, and chronic conditions, to specialized care.

Chief Medical Officer of Health releases 2022 annual report

- The report is a call to take key lessons from the pandemic to ensure Ontario is ready for any future outbreak/pandemic, whenever it might occur.



A WORD ABOUT COVID-19

Staying **up-to-date** on COVID-19 vaccines remains the best defence against serious complications from the virus. GBPH **urges** Primary Care Providers to screen their patients, especially those in vulnerable groups, to ensure they are **up-to-date**. Current NACI recommendations are available at this link: [NACI](#)

Resources for Healthcare Professionals: March

- April 4, 2023 - PHO Technical Brief - [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Measures based on COVID-19 Transmission Risks in Health Care Settings](#)
- March 16, 2023 - [XDR Shigella sonnei: Possible Sexual Transmission](#)
- Feb. 28, 2023 - [Recent increase in xylazine and frequent benzodiazepine presence in unregulated drug supply in Ontario](#)

Articles of interest: March

- March 8, 2023: [Researchers find rate of fatal opioid poisonings among children more than doubled over 13-year span](#)

Educational opportunities

- April 5, 2023 - The National Safer Supply Community of Practice holds weekly Thursday safer supply drop-in meetings. These meetings are a place for people who pre-prescribe safer supply, who work in support of Safer Supply and who have lived/living experience with drug use to share their experiences. [Registration link](#).

Grey Bruce Public Health Media Releases: March 2023

- March 1, 2023 - [GBPH marking National Nutrition Month in March](#)
- March 8, 2023: [GBPH looking to ensure full and permanent coverage for well water testing service](#)
- March 20, 2023 - [Vision screening starting this month for SK students at Bluewater District School Board schools](#)
- March 28, 2023 - [Public Health issues alert following two recent fatal overdoses](#)