



GBPH notified of two cases of Q Fever in Bruce County in 2023

- Bacteria that causes Q Fever can survive long periods in the environment. Inhalation of airborne particles is thought to be the most common mode of transmission.
- Memo includes information on causes, symptoms, testing, treatment & prevention.

Rise in Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis

- In 2022, GBPH reported 27 cases of syphilis, up from seven in 2021 and 12 in 2020.
- Public Health recently investigated cases of unidentified and untreated syphilis in newly postpartum individuals.
- Syphilis can have devastating effects in pregnancy.

Encourage your patients to use ICON to update their child's vaccination record

- GBPH has developed a [one-page handout](#) with easy-to-follow instructions on how to use ICON, an online tool that enables parents to easily access and update their child's immunization card.
- **Feel free to print this flyer, post it in your office, and/or distribute to patients.**

Commercial tobacco cessation supports

- GBPH looking to restart Community of Practice for tobacco cessation.
- Public Health now offering STOP Program.

Canada marked National Immunization Awareness Week in late April

- [Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a statement](#) to encourage everyone to stay up to date on vaccinations
- [The Immunization Well-Child Toolkit](#) aims to assist Health Care Providers in communicating information about infectious diseases and the importance of vaccines for prevention. The toolkit includes handouts for parents.

A WORD ABOUT COVID-19

- Ministry of Health recently updated its online list of [locations where people can get a COVID-19 test](#) or clinical assessment and [locations where rapid test kits are available](#).
- The Ontario College of Family Physicians has created a document on [IPAC Guidance for Community Practices](#).

Public Health Memos/Alerts for Healthcare Professionals

- April 12, 2023 - [COVID-19 booster recommended for high-risk Individuals this spring](#)

Resources for Healthcare Professionals

- New HIV Testing Guidelines. [Ontario Guidelines for Providers offering HIV Testing](#)
 - *New guidelines emphasize importance of talking to patients at increased risk of exposure to HIV about PreExposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) often, even if initially a patient is not interested.*
- [Lyme Disease Clinical Guidance Document, updated March 2023.](#)
- [Memo from Chief MOH - Avian Influenza Surveillance in Hospitalized Patients.](#)
 - *Latest information on [current and recent investigations on AI detections](#).*
- [Local Source Protection Annual Progress Report released](#)
 - Report outlines progress made in implementing source protection plan for the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region, as required by the Clean Water Act.
 - Media Release also available. [Media Release link.](#)

Grey Bruce Public Health Media Releases: April 2023

- April 20, 2023 - [Public Health marking Earth Day 2023](#)
- April 17, 2023 - [Public Health reminds Grey-Bruce residents to prevent tick bites, protect against Lyme disease](#)
- April 4, 2023 - [GBPH issues alert about toxic drug supply following multiple overdoses](#)