

Issue #05

June 2023

Meaford Fire Update

- Grey Bruce Public Health recommended Wednesday evening that Meaford rescind the do-not-consume water advisory for its municipal water system.
- MOH Dr. Ian Arra issued the recommendation after sample results from the municipal water system came back negative for potential contaminants.
- GBPH will continue to collaborate with Meaford to ensure the public has access to a safe water supply.

GBPH begins student suspension prevention plan

- This summer, GBPH's Vaccine Preventable Diseases team will attempt to reconcile immunization records for roughly 4,000 non-compliant students, focusing on students in kindergarten to Grade 4.
- To support ISPA activities, GBPH is asking health care providers to fax updated immunization records for students to GBPH (519-376-7782) following administration or provide parents with a copy of their child's updated immunization record.

Ministry of Health alerting healthcare providers about increase in iGAS cases

- Increased cases of Invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease (iGAS) have been reported in Ontario in all age groups.
- Rates of illness highest among young children up to age four and seniors 65+.

Public Health Ontario releases 2023 Lyme Disease Risk Map

- 2023 map has six newly identified areas, including two in Grey-Bruce.
- Provides clinicians with information that can assist with decisions to pursue testing, prophylaxis and/or treatment.

Health Canada warns accidental ingestion of 'copycat' edible cannabis products causing serious harm to children

- Emergency departments seeing increase in visits, poison centres experiencing uptick in calls due to accidental ingestion of copycat edible cannabis products.

Summer stomach bugs

- Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Giardiasis reported at higher rates in summer.
- [GBPH routinely has some of the highest rates of these enteric illnesses in Ontario.](#)
- Common causes of [campy](#), [crypto](#), and [giardi](#) include ingestion of contaminated water or contact with animal contaminants (like dogs, cats, cows and chickens).
- Public Health investigates cases of enteric illnesses to assist in identifying potential source and mitigate additional risk, if possible.
- By ordering stool samples for patients with enteric illnesses, Primary Care Providers can help in the surveillance of infectious diseases in Grey-Bruce.

A WORD ABOUT COVID-19

REMINDER: NACI recommends that an [additional COVID-19 booster](#) may be offered **this spring** to individuals at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including seniors aged 80+ and long-term care residents.

Rates of hospitalizations and deaths in Canada due to COVID-19 continue to be highest in unvaccinated individuals.

Public Health Memos/Alerts for Health Care Professionals

- May 18, 2023: [GBPH's Summer Suspension Prevention Program](#)

Public Health Resources

- June is Pride Month. [Rainbow Health Ontario](#) offers various courses for healthcare providers to increase their clinical and cultural competency in caring for 2SLGBTQ service users, many of which are eligible for Mainpro-M1 Credits. This includes "2SLGBTQ Foundations," which aims to help build foundational knowledge for those providing care to LGBT2SQ individuals.

Grey Bruce Public Health Media Releases

- June 1, 2023 - [Updated Lyme Disease Map includes new estimated risk areas in Grey-Bruce](#)