

Issue #08

September 2023

Increase in pertussis cases confirmed in neighbouring Public Health Unit

- Huron Perth Public Health is seeing an increase in lab-confirmed cases of pertussis (whooping cough). The cases involve unvaccinated individuals.
- A Public Health Alert was issued by HPPH on Sept. 1, 2023.
- In mid-August, the Timiskaming Health Unit declared a [pertussis outbreak](#).
- GBPH's last reported pertussis case was in May 2023 in an unvaccinated individual
- Pertussis is a [reportable disease in Ontario](#).
- Unvaccinated/incompletely vaccinated infants and pregnant individuals in their third trimester have the highest risk for severe complications and death.

Public Health investigating Tuberculosis case

- GBPH has been investigating a TB infection in Grey-Bruce, which has included contact tracing and making arrangements to offer TB skin testing to identified contacts.
- Tuberculosis is a [reportable disease in Ontario](#).
- Active TB cases are rare in Grey-Bruce, with only [one case reported in 2021](#) and zero cases reported from 2017-2020.
- Additional information: [Canadian Tuberculosis Standards - 8th Edition](#).

[Together, we can eliminate rabies](#)

- Sept. 28, 2023, is World Rabies Day.
- About 59,000 people each year die from rabies. [95% of the deaths are in Africa or Asia](#).
- There hasn't been a human case of rabies in Ontario since 2012. Last year, there were 61 known rabies cases in animals in Ontario – the majority involving bats.
- Rabies resources for primary care providers: [Rabies Vaccine](#).

[Public Health Agency of Canada scientists make major breakthrough on HIV genetic research](#)

- New genetic variants have been discovered that may explain why certain people have a lower viral load, which slows down HIV from replicating and transmitting.
- This is a major breakthrough in the understanding of HIV that may lead to new HIV treatment and prevention strategies.

[Federal government provides \\$177M to CAMH to launch national three-digit number for suicide prevention](#)

- The 9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline will be available across Canada on Nov. 30, 2023.
- It will offer trauma-informed and culturally appropriate crisis services.

Resources for Primary Care Professionals

- [Ontario Marginalization Index](#). A data tool that combines a wide range of demographic indicators into four distinct dimensions of marginalization.
- [Respiratory Virus Overview in Ontario](#).
- [CMHA Workplace Mental Health Resources](#).
- [Summer newsletter for the National Collaboration Centre for Health Equity](#).
- [An evaluation guide to support community-based interventions to prevent substance-related harms in youth](#).
- The Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care has updated its [guidance on preventing fragility fractures](#).

Educational opportunities

- 4-part Special Interest Series on [Child & Youth Mental Health in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities](#). **September & October**. Organizer: ECHO Ontario Child & Youth Mental Health and ECHO Ontario First Nation. *Offered via Zoom*.
- [Sexually Transmitted and Blood-borne Infections: Barriers to Screening](#). **Self-paced**. Organizer: UBC. Offered online. Accredited.

Grey Bruce Public Health Media Releases: August 2023

- Aug. 2, 2023 - [Crow found in area tests positive for West Nile Virus](#)
- Aug. 3, 2023 - [GBPH continuing to offer clinics to support students in getting up to date on routine vaccines](#)
- Aug. 18, 2023 - [Public assistance request – dog bite – Chesley](#)
- Aug. 28, 2023 - [Community gatherings planned to mark International Overdose Awareness Day](#)