



## Ontario seeing increase in invasive Group A Streptococcal (iGAS) cases

- Number of iGAS cases reported in Ontario in fall 2023 was higher in both adults and children compared to fall 2022.
- Highest rates of illness in adults aged 65 and up and children aged 1 - 9.
- While relatively uncommon, iGAS can progress quickly and be associated with severe and life-threatening conditions. As a result, early recognition and prompt, aggressive management are critical.
- Ontario's Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health is asking Primary Care Providers to be on the alert for potential complications of GAS infections and consider iGAS as a possible cause of severe illness, particularly in patients considered at increased risk.

## Ontario Chief MOH reiterates need to ensure Mpox vaccine is available for people at risk of Mpox

- In Ontario, 31 Mpox cases were reported between Jan. 1 and Nov. 13, 2023, of which 80.6% were reported by Toronto Public Health.
- Ontario's Ministry of Health has developed [Guidance for Health Care Providers for administering the Mpox Vaccine \(Imvamune\)](#) as a pre- and post-exposure vaccination.

## Public Health Ontario shares new Hand Hygiene Resources for health care providers

- Resources support education and training, hand hygiene product placement, and skin care assessment for health care providers.
- New resources include three checklists - [How to Protect Your Skin](#); [Hand Hygiene Product Placement](#); and [Maintenance of Hand Hygiene Products and Equipment](#) - as well as a [Caring for Your Hands infographic](#) and FAQ documents.

### Public Health Memos/Alerts for Health Care Professionals

- Dec. 14, 2023 - [Expanded eligibility for RSV vaccine](#).

### Resources for Primary Care Professionals

- [Botulism Guide for Health Care Professionals](#), Ministry of Health, October 2023.
  - *Botulism should be reported to Public Health even if it is only suspected and has not yet been confirmed. Information on the suspected food item should also be provided during the call.*
- [COVID-19 and Flu Fact Sheet](#), Ministry of Health, December 2023.
- Canada Communicable Disease Report (CCDR), November/December 2023, [Risk of sexual transmission of HIV in the context of viral load suppression](#).
- CCDR, November/December 2023, [Does the Australian influenza season predict the Canadian influenza season? A qualitative comparison of seasons, 2014-2020](#).

### Grey Bruce Public Health Media Releases: December 2023

- Dec. 15, 2023 - [Well water testing service operating on modified schedule this holiday season](#)
- Dec. 11, 2023 - [GBPH, local police raising overdose awareness this holiday season](#)