

Increase in measles activity in Ontario, globally

- Ontario's Chief MOH has issued a memo to healthcare providers regarding measles preparedness. Given a global rise in measles cases, health system partners in Ontario must be prepared for the importation of cases and potential outbreaks.
- The [memo contains recommendations](#) for all Ontario healthcare providers. They include supporting patients in receiving all routine vaccinations, including for measles, according to the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#).
- In Canada, there are [4 active measles cases](#), two of which are in Ontario.
- Globally, [measles activity is also on the rise](#).
- Feb. 23, 2024 - [Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on Global Increase in Measles and Risk to Canada](#).
- The [CDC is reporting 35 measles cases in 15 jurisdictions](#) in the United States.
- [Measles information for clinicians from Public Health Ontario](#) includes measles case investigation and infection prevention and control information.

GBPH investigating local chickenpox cases

- Two confirmed cases involve secondary-school-aged students with history of receiving one dose of varicella vaccine.
- Depending on year of birth, children may have received none, one, or two doses of chickenpox vaccine.
- Receiving two doses is known to provide the [best protection](#).
- Individuals who have received one or no doses of the [vaccine](#) and who do not have a history of past chickenpox infection are considered more [susceptible to infection](#) if in contact with a case. If exposed, susceptible contacts are encouraged to seek out vaccination, which may help to prevent or lessen the severity of infection.
- Testing can assist in diagnosis and local surveillance. Ideally, chickenpox is tested by swabbing of lesions/vesicular fluid. Information on testing, including appropriate swab kits, is available on PHO's website: [Varicella Zoster Virus Detection](#).
- Invasive Group A Strep, including infections in children, continue to be [reported](#) at higher levels than pre-pandemic. iGAS infection can be a [potential complication of chickenpox](#) – and children with recent viral infections, like chickenpox, are at [higher risk](#) of developing iGAS disease.

Streptococcus Pneumonia vaccination

- GBPH continues to receive reports of new cases of [invasive pneumococcal disease](#), primarily in high-risk individuals without a history of vaccination.
- Though vaccination in adulthood is generally recommended for those aged 65+, there are many other [high-risk conditions](#) that would result in a patient being eligible for and benefitting from the vaccine, [including \(but not limited to\) those with](#): chronic heart, kidney, liver, and lung diseases; diabetes; various immunocompromising conditions; as well as smokers, persons with alcoholism, persons who use illicit drugs, and those who are homeless.

New report released on antimicrobial resistance in common hospital pathogens

- **“Antimicrobial Resistance in Common Hospital Pathogens in Ontario: Annual Laboratory and Hospital Survey Report 2022”** created by Public Health Ontario and the Institute for Quality Management in Healthcare.
- Survey looks at screening and infection control programs and prevalence of AROs.
- The report says the incidence rates of MRSA and VRE in Ontario increased from 2021 to 2022, while the rate of carbapenemase-producing organisms in Ontario hospitals nearly doubled from 2021 to 2022.

Resources for Primary Care Professionals

- [Don't Quit Quitting](#) is a new website developed by Ontario Public Health Units. Includes resources for healthcare professionals supporting patients who are looking to quit smoking/vaping.
- [Public Health: A Conceptual Framework](#), Canadian Public Health Association.
- New fact sheets from Immunize Canada: [RSV: What you need to know](#). | [Measles: What you need to know](#).
- The Ministry of Health has updated its [Vaccine Resources for Professionals webpage](#). Includes: handouts to assist healthcare providers in communicating with patients about the importance of childhood vaccines; printouts of vaccine schedules, etc.
- Jan. 29, 2024 - [Toronto's Drug Checking Services](#) has identified, for the first time, medetomidine/dexmedetomidine in Toronto's unregulated drug supply.

Grey Bruce Public Health Media Releases: February 2024

- Feb. 8, 2024 - [Grey Bruce Public Health releases report on food affordability](#)
- Feb. 7, 2024 - [GBPH issues community alert following six suspected drug overdoses in recent days](#)