

Screening and managing syphilis in Canada

- In 2022, the incidence rate of syphilis in Ontario increased to its [highest level](#) at 23.6 cases per 100,000.
- GBPH issued a [Public Health Alert to emergency department and pharmacy staff](#) in May 2024 with information on first-line treatment for syphilis.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada created a [“Let’s Talk About Syphilis” infographic](#) for health professionals with tips on screening and managing syphilis in Canada.
- Other syphilis-related resources:
 - [Simplified algorithm for clinical syphilis staging & treatment in adolescents and adults.](#)
 - A [Person-Centered Approach to Sexual Health](#): Strategies for PCPs to create safe spaces to talk about sexual health and sexually transmitted infections.

Reminder about reporting all animal bites/scratches to Public Health

- With spring in full swing, GBPH reminds healthcare providers of their obligation to report to Public Health all animal bites and scratches that occur in Grey-Bruce.
- The Health Protection and Promotion Act specifies that:
 - A physician, registered nurse in the extended class, veterinarian, police officer or any other person who has information concerning either or both of the following shall, as soon as possible, notify the medical officer of health and provide the medical officer of health with the information, including the name and contact information of the exposed person:
 - Any bite from a mammal.
 - Any contact with a mammal that is conducive to the potential transmission of rabies to persons.
- ***Animal bites and scratches can be reported directly to Public Health Inspectors using the online [Grey Bruce Health Unit Animal Exposure Report](#).***

HIV Treatment Network seeking PCP assistance in creating CME-credited course on HIV and HIV prevention

- **From the Ministry of Health:** A team of clinician-teachers at St. Michael’s Hospital Academic Family Health Team and the Ontario HIV Treatment Network are working to enhance HIV care in Ontario communities by developing a practical, focused HIV educational curriculum for primary care clinicians, particularly those in rural areas; those with few supports to HIV test/counsel/treat People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and people at risk for HIV.
- To help design a curriculum that addresses the specific educational needs of health-care providers, the team has developed a brief [online needs assessment survey](#), which is anonymous and will collect focused demographic data, along with insights into your knowledge of HIV epidemiology in your community and your HIV testing experience. Additional information, email: Gordon.Arbess@unityhealth.to

[Public Health Ontario releases 2024 Ontario Blacklegged Tick Established Risk Areas map](#)

- Previously known as the Ontario Lyme Disease Map: Estimated Risk Areas, this year’s map includes a new estimated risk area in central Grey-Bruce.
- The map and accompanying surveillance report provide information to assist public health professionals and clinicians in their management and case investigations of tick-borne diseases. It also informs public health messaging aimed at raising awareness of established risk areas in Ontario.
- PHO has also released an [enhanced epidemiological summary](#), which provides information for anaplasmosis and babesiosis in 2023, the first year these tick-borne diseases were classified as Diseases of Public Health Significance.

Resources for Primary Care Professionals: Latest Posts

- March/April - Canada Communicable Disease Report (CCDR): [Summary of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\) Updated Guidance on Influenza Vaccination During Pregnancy.](#)
- April 19, 2024 - [Letter to Primary Care Providers from Ontario Chief MOH Dr. Kieran Moore re: Immunization Recommendations for Children Previously Immunized with Oral Poliovirus Vaccine \(OPV\)](#)

Educational Opportunities

- Public Health Ontario has developed a new [Health Promotion Essentials online course](#), designed for health professionals who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of health promotion concepts and values.