

Primary Care Update

A monthly newsletter for healthcare practitioners in Grey-Bruce

Issue #18 July 2024

Update on GBPH's Tobacco Cessation Program

- Grey Bruce Public Health's Cessation Program wrapped up on June 28, 2024.
- Public Health is informing clients and partners of this change.
- GBPH will maintain its STOP Program agreement with CAMH, which will allow trained staff in its Healthy Babies Healthy Children and School Health programs to continue accessing Nicotine Replacement Therapy for their clients.
- The Community of Practice mailing list will also be maintained for now to keep partners informed of relevant campaigns, updates, and initiatives. To be added to this email list, please call 519-376-9420 ext. 7 and leave a message.
- GBPH encourages healthcare providers supporting individuals looking to quit smoking/vaping to refer them to the STOP on the Net Program for access to 10 weeks of free NRT and Health811 for counselling support.
- Youth looking to quit vaping can be put in touch with their respective School Health Nurse.

Resources related to Avian Influenza A (H5N1)

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is currently responding to cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in birds across Canada.
- <u>H5N1 infections have been reported in dairy cattle</u>, cats, dogs, neonatal goats sharing single premises with poultry, and other mammalian species. This diversification and spillover of H5N1 from wild birds to mammals increases opportunities for genetic change that could result in a virus with greater fitness in mammalian hosts, including humans.
- The risk of avian influenza infection to people in Canada remains low.
- Public Health Ontario has released new resources in response to the evolving H5N1 situation:
 - Rapid Review: Thermal Inactivation of Influenza A(H5N1) in Meat, which
 investigates thermal inactivation of Influenza A(H5N1) in meat from poultry and
 beef. This comes in response to increasing concerns about the presence of
 the virus in U.S. dairy cattle.
 - Rapid Review: Survivability of Influenza A(H5N1) in Milk, which assesses the survivability of influenza A(H5N1) in milk from dairy cattle that may be infected with the virus.
 - For more information, visit PHO's Avian Influenza webpage.

Resources for Primary Care Professionals

- New Poster Staying on Your Feet Guide
 - Grey Bruce Public Health has developed a new poster, which can be displayed in PCP offices, that advertises the new 'Staying on Your Feet' guide by the Grey Bruce Falls Prevention and Intervention Program. The guide includes fall prevention information and tips, local online resources, and more.
- June 2024 Immunize Canada poster: <u>Myth-Busting: Tetanus.</u>
- June 2024 PHO Media Release: <u>Surge In Fatal Opioid Overdoses In Ontario Shelters</u>, Report Finds

Grey Bruce Public Health Media Releases: June 2024

- June 24, 2024 GBPH notified of 2 opioid overdoses, including one fatal overdose, over past 2 days
- June 21, 2024 Public Health raising awareness about preventing dog bites, negative interactions with wildlife
- June 17, 2024 GBPH advising people to protect against heat-related illnesses during prolonged heat event
- June 11, 2024 GBPH notified of 15 opioid overdoses, including one fatal overdose, over past 10 days

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• June 6, 2024 - GBPH issues drug poisoning alert following series of overdoses