



Update on Mpox situation globally; in Ontario

- On Aug. 14, 2024, the [World Health Organization](#) declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern due to the emergence and spread of a novel and more severe Mpox strain (clade 1b) in several Central African countries and ongoing clade 1a and/or clade 11b Mpox outbreaks in Central and West African countries.
- From Jan. 1 to Aug. 10, 2024, 142 lab-confirmed Mpox cases were reported in Ontario, with the vast majority occurring in the Greater Toronto Area amongst adult men who have sex with men. For comparison, only 33 confirmed Mpox cases were identified in Ontario in all of 2023.
- No Mpox cases have been reported in Grey-Bruce in 2024.
- To date, all Mpox cases reported in Ontario have been the less severe clade 11b strain; only two cases have required hospitalization and no deaths have been reported.
- Public Health Ontario produces biweekly Enhanced Epidemiological Summaries of provincial Mpox activity, which are available on [PHO's Mpox webpage](#).
- An Enhanced Surveillance Directive (ESD) was issued in March 2024 to request from Public Health Units prioritization of case follow-up and timely data entry for all Mpox cases; the ESD is updated on a biweekly basis.
- The eligibility criteria for Imvamune vaccines is available at the following link: [Mpox Vaccination](#). Contact GBPH for more information.

Resources for Primary Care Professionals

- Aug. 27, 2024 - [Letter from the Ministry of Health to COVID-19 vaccinators](#) regarding market withdrawal of all COVID-19 XBB vaccines in Canada, as of Sept. 1, 2024.
- Aug. 30, 2024 - With students returning to college campuses this week, Toronto Public Health is promoting Sexual Health Infoline Ontario (SHILO), a provincewide e-chat and phone service, available to all Ontario residents thanks to its partnership with the Ministry of Health.
SHILO is available 7 days a week and is staffed by counsellors who provide information, support, and referrals in English, French, and other languages on sexual health topics.
Printable Poster: [SHILO Poster Link](#)
More information about SHILO: [SexualHealthOntario.ca](#)
- Public Health Ontario has shared the following new, at-a-glance documents with evidence-based recommendations for physicians and other licenced care providers on assessing, testing, managing, and referring patients with potential exposure to cadmium, lead, or mercury in community settings:
 - [Clinical Evaluation for Cadmium Exposure: A Simplified Approach](#)
 - [Clinical Evaluation for Lead Exposure: A Simplified Approach](#)
 - [Clinical Evaluation for Mercury Exposure: A Simplified Approach](#)

Grey Bruce Public Health Media Releases: August 2024

- Aug. 7, 2024 - [GBPH notified of fifth suspected fatal drug poisoning in Grey-Bruce this summer](#)
- Aug. 9, 2024 - [Swim advisory lifted for Southampton Beach](#)
- Aug. 15, 2024 - [Increase in pertussis cases underscores importance of staying up to date on publicly funded vaccinations](#)
- Aug. 19, 2024 - [Public Health advises against swimming at area beaches after a significant rainfall](#)
- Aug. 21, 2024 - [Crow from Grey-Bruce tests positive for West Nile Virus](#)
- Aug. 23, 2024 - [Blue-green algae toxins confirmed in Lake Eugenia](#)
- Aug. 27, 2024 - [GBPH issues Opioid Alert following series of drug poisonings over three-day period](#)
- Aug. 29, 2024 - [Southampton Beach posted unsafe for swimming](#)