

## Candida auris now reportable to Public Health under provincial law

- [Ontario Regulation 135/18](#) under the Health Protection and Promotion Act has been updated to include C. auris as a Reportable Disease of Public Health Significance.
- Candida auris is a multidrug-resistant fungus that can cause serious infections – from wound and ear to bloodstream infections, particularly in immunocompromised patients.
- Transmission of C. auris primarily occurs through direct contact with contaminated surfaces and environments, as well as through person-to-person contact in health-care settings. As C. auris can persist on surfaces for long periods of time, it may spread rapidly within healthcare settings.
- Resources related to testing, as well as IPAC considerations for C. auris are available through [Public Health Ontario](#).

## **Information on GBPH's Suspension Program for 2024-25 – and how PCPs can support ISPA compliance efforts**

- For the 2024-25 school year, GBPH's Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) suspension program will focus on students in Grades 1 to 8 and those aged 17 by the start of the suspension period in the spring.
- As part of its suspension prevention efforts, GBPH will review the immunization records in the provincial database for these students and work with the families of students who are not up to date on required vaccines or whose records have missing/incomplete information to help bring them into compliance with the ISPA.
- GBPH will send out notices to parents/guardians of students who do not meet ISPA requirements and are at risk of school suspension. These notices will outline which vaccine(s) the student requires.
- School suspensions will not be enforced until mid-April 2025. Parents will get at least two notices before the suspension date to provide ample time to get the student into compliance.
- When these notices go out, your office may receive more calls from parents seeking immunization information. Promptly sending GBPH information about immunizations children/youth receive at your clinic may help to reduce the call volume.
- To support Public Health's ISPA activities, GBPH is asking healthcare providers to:
  - Fax updated immunization information for students in Grades 1-8 or aged 17 to GBPH (519-376-7782) directly following administration;
  - Provide parents with a copy of their child's updated immunization record. In Ontario, PCPs must provide this service free of charge.
  - ISPA-related questions can be directed to the Vaccine Preventable Diseases team by calling 519-376-9420, ext. 3910.

## Help Spread the Word: Free dental services for children from low-income families

- A healthy mouth is key to good overall health. However, many children in our community face barriers, including financial barriers, to accessing and receiving routine dental care.
- GBPH's [dental clinics](#) provide oral health services to eligible children as part of the provincial Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program. HSO is a government-funded dental program that provides free preventive, routine, and emergency dental services for children and youth 17 years of age and under from low-income households.
- HSO includes regular visits to a licenced dental provider and covers the costs of treatment including:
  - Check-ups
  - Cleaning
  - Fillings
  - X-rays
  - Scaling
  - Tooth extraction
  - Urgent or emergency dental care (including treatment of a child's toothache or tooth pain)
- What Can You Do? If you have a young patient who could qualify for the HSO program, encourage their parents to reach out and explore our services. They can call 519-376-9420 and Press 8 for more information or visit: [ontario.ca/healthysmiles](https://ontario.ca/healthysmiles).

## **Resources for Primary Care Professionals**

- December 2024 - Grey Bruce Public Health offers a FREE online prenatal education program for expecting parents. Help us spread the word by downloading this poster and posting it in your offices. [Bump to Baby Poster Link](#).
- December 2024 - In response to the rising cases of Mycoplasma pneumoniae in Ontario, Public Health Ontario has released a new report: [Mycoplasma pneumoniae Testing in Ontario](#). This resource summarizes Mycoplasma Pneumoniae testing data performed at PHO from Jan. 1 to Nov. 15, 2024.
- December 2024 - [Health Canada Infographic: Bats and Rabies in Canada](#)
- December 2024 - Canada Communicable Disease Report (CCDR) - [Summary of the NACI Statement: Updated guidance on HPV vaccines](#)
- November 2024 - ImmunizeCanada released an 18-minute [video for healthcare professionals on RSV](#).

## **Grey Bruce Public Health Media Releases: December 2024**

- Dec. 3, 2024 - [Opioid Alert issued following one fatal, five non-fatal suspected drug overdoses in Grey-Bruce](#)
- Dec. 6, 2024 - [GBPH announces results of 'Attacking Medication Misuse' campaign](#)
- Dec. 23, 2024 - [Mr. Nicholas Saunders appointed Chair of Grey-Bruce Board of Health](#)
- Dec. 24, 2024 - [Resources available to help those experiencing grief, other challenges during holiday season](#)