A monthly newsletter for healthcare practitioners in Grey-Bruce **Public Health**

Issue #28 May 2025 Update on measles situation in Grey-Bruce

Grey Bruce Public Health continues to work with individuals, and families of

- individuals, who have contracted measles to help prevent further spread of the virus and complete case management and contact-tracing. GBPH posts community exposures on its <u>Measles webpage</u> if all potential contacts cannot be identified. So far in 2025, 28 confirmed or probable measles cases have been reported in
- Grey-Bruce, including 15 in the past week. Since the start of the multi-jurisdictional measles outbreak in Ontario in mid-October 2024, GBPH has investigated 36 measles cases. Thirty-four of these cases were unimmunized, while 35 of the 36 cases were from an underimmunized community.
- GBPH has uploaded fillable and printable measles reporting forms to its website. Primary care providers can use these forms to fulfil reporting requirements. Reports via phone are still welcome.
- Public Health Ontario's latest Enhanced Epidemiological Summary on Measles in Ontario says 1,243 measles cases were reported in 17 Public Health Unit areas between Oct. 18, 2024, and April 29, 2025.
- The number of measles cases in Ontario increased by 223 between April 23 and 29, due to continued exposures and transmission among individuals who have not been immunized. Among the infants/children/adolescents in Ontario who have acquired measles, 94.4% were unimmunized, while among adults, 62.4% were unimmunized.
- The Ontario Immunization Advisory Committee (OIAC) has released new recommendations on measles post-exposure prophylaxis for individuals who are immunocompromised. Public Health Ontario (PHO) and the OIAC have developed a <u>full report on</u> the recommendations as well as a summary document, which provides a concise overview of the recommendations.
- PHO has updated its At a Glance document on post-exposure prophylaxis for individuals identified as a contact of a confirmed measles case.

Measles vaccine guidance - at a glance

- In general, those born before 1970 are considered immune to measles.
- As part of Ontario's publicly funded vaccine schedule, children should receive a measles vaccine at one year of age and a second dose between ages 4 and 6.
- Vaccination is publicly funded for adults if they have never had measles or been vaccinated.
- While adults born before 1970 are considered immune to measles, susceptible healthcare workers, travellers to places outside Canada, and military personnel should receive a measles vaccine, regardless of birth year.
- Expanded eligibility is offered for those in the groups listed below who will be going to places where measles is known to be circulating (i.e. areas of concern. As of the distribution of this newsletter, areas of concern include Southwestern, Grand Erie, and Huron Perth public health unit areas):
 - Infants (six to 11 months): Should receive one dose of the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine. Two additional doses continue to be recommended after the age of one year.
 - measles-containing vaccine are encouraged to receive a second dose as soon as possible (at a minimum of four weeks from the first dose). Adults born on or after 1970: a second dose of MMR vaccine is recommended.

Children (one to four years): Children who have received their first dose of

- Assessment of risk/travel/interaction & administration is based on HCP discretion.
- Ministry of Health releases COVID-19 vaccine guidance for spring 2025

Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health has shared details of the Province's annual

- COVID-19 vaccine program, which is based on provincial epidemiology. In spring 2025, previously immunized high-risk populations who have completed
- their primary COVID-19 vaccine series should receive an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine. This includes: adults 65 years of age and older; adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors; individuals 6 months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised (due to an underlying condition or treatment); and individuals aged 55 years and older who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Metis and their non-Indigenous household members who are 55 years and older. The Province has created a <u>fact sheet</u> for healthcare providers with additional details on the 2024/25 COVID-19 Vaccine Program.
- <u>Update on Ontario's RSV Prophylaxis Program</u>

Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health has announced that the 2024-25 adult RSV program will continue into this spring. Vaccines for eligible individuals are available

- through Grey Bruce Public Health. Ontario's publicly funded RSV prevention program is targeted for high-risk individuals
- and settings. The program includes individuals who are aged 60 years and older and who are also: residents of long-term care homes, Elder Care Lodges, or retirement homes; patients in hospital receiving alternate level of care (ALC); patients receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis; recipients of solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplants; individuals experiencing homelessness; and individuals who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis. The 2024-2025 infant and high-risk children RSV prevention program has ended.
- Doses of Beyfortus and Abrysvo should no longer be ordered or administered to infants, children, or pregnant individuals. All remaining non-expired inventory is to be stored under appropriate cold chain for use next season in provider's offices.

Resources for Primary Care Professionals

March 2025 - PHO has created a new document on Candida auris in Ontario, which describes the epidemiology of the multi-drug-resistant fungal pathogen in Ontario

from Jan. 1, 2017, to Dec. 31, 2024.

- **Grey Bruce Public Health Media Releases: April 2025**
 - April 1, 2025 GBPH reminds residents to avoid handling wild birds; take steps to protect against avian flu
 - April 7, 2025 GBPH advising public of possible measles exposure location in Grey-<u>Bruce</u>
 - April 25, 2025 Grey Bruce Public Health reporting new measles exposure location
 - April 28, 2025 GBPH notifying public of measles exposure locations in Grey-Bruce May 2, 2025 - GBPH advising community of measles exposure location in Grey-Bruce