



Primary Care Update

A monthly newsletter for healthcare practitioners in Grey-Bruce

Issue #42

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Changes to Routine Vaccines

Pneumococcal

- The routine pneumococcal vaccine for people 65+ has changed to Pneu-C-21 (Capvaxive), which is expected to provide broader protection than Pneu-C-20. Re-vaccination with Pneu-C-21 is not publicly funded for those who already received a publicly funded pneumococcal vaccine. More information can be found [here](#).

Meningococcal

- Ontario is transitioning from Men-C-C to Men-C-ACYW in the routine childhood immunization program; recommended ages remain unchanged.
- The change provides broader protection against serogroups A, Y and W and is mainly due to the discontinuation of Men-C-C vaccines in Canada.
- Two routine Men-C-ACYW doses will be publicly funded: one at 12 months and one in Grade 7. Individuals born in 1997 or later who have not received a publicly funded Men-C-ACYW dose are eligible for one dose.
- Continue using existing Men-C-C inventory for eligible 12-month and catch-up doses until supply is depleted or expired. Do not start routine 12-month Men-C-ACYW use while usable Men-C-C remains, unless clinically indicated. More information can be found [here](#).

Updated vaccine order forms and the Immunization Summary Sheet are now required. Please use the 2026 Publicly Funded Vaccine and STI Medication Order Form, Publicly Funded High Risk Vaccine Order Form, School Immunization Order and Reporting Forms, and Immunization Summary Sheet. Forms were sent August 27, 2026, and are available here: [Information for Health Professionals](#).

Release of Immunization Records for Individuals 18 Years of Age and Older

- Patient consent is required for GBPH to release immunization records for adults not covered under ISPA or CCEYA.
- Where possible, patients should request their own record from GBPH. The [Request for Release of Immunization Record for Individuals 18 Years of Age and Older](#) form may also be used.

Influenza Vaccine

- Influenza vaccine will not be shipped automatically this year; HCP offices must place orders before the vaccine is sent.
- Updated information and order forms will be shared once Ministry guidance for the fall respiratory season is received.

Blastomycosis

- [Blastomycosis](#) is a fungal infection caused by inhaling airborne Blastomyces spores. Infection typically involves the lungs, with presentation ranging from mild, non-resolving pneumonia to acute respiratory distress syndrome. The disease disseminates beyond the lungs in 20 to 50% of cases, mainly to the skin and bone. The infection is not spread by person-to-person transmission and can occur in immunocompromised and immunocompetent patients.
- People are at risk of exposure in areas with moist soil or decomposing wood/leaves, especially during activities that disturb soil, such as construction, gardening, digging, firewood harvesting, off-road vehicle use and camping.
- Blastomycosis has been reported infrequently in Grey-Bruce, but changes in climate and land use are hypothesized to be causing expansion in Ontario. Patients frequently experience delayed diagnosis because of the non-specific presentation.
- Providers are asked to include Blastomycosis in their differential diagnosis when patients present with pneumonia-like symptoms or skin lesions that do not improve with antibiotics.

Candida auris (C. auris) Colonization in Healthcare Settings

- C. auris is a multi-drug-resistant fungus that can cause severe, invasive disease and lead to persistent outbreaks in health care settings.
- Providers are requested to report newly identified C. auris colonization cases to Grey Bruce Public Health.** Such reporting, including the disclosure of personal health information, is authorized under section 39(2)(a) of the *Personal Health Information Protection Act* as it is made for a purpose of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.
- For best practices related to IPAC precautions, please refer to the [Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee's \(PIDAC\) Interim Guide for Infection Prevention and Control of Candida auris](#) and [Public Health Ontario's C. auris resources](#).
- Public Health Ontario hosted a webinar earlier this year on managing C. auris, available [here](#).

Promoting Student Health in Grey-Bruce

- Grey Bruce Public Health, in partnership with local school boards, offers nurse-led Student Health Centres in all secondary schools across Grey-Bruce.
- Services include sexual health and healthy relationship counselling, 2SLGBTQ+ resources and support, mental health support, tobacco and vaping cessation, harm reduction education and supplies, dental health referrals and health-system navigation and referrals.
- Through this program, a Public Health Nurse may refer a student to their primary care provider for ongoing health care needs. Health care providers can also share information about this program with students who may benefit from one-on-one, accessible, confidential support within the school setting.

Resources for Primary Care Professionals

- [PHO's Infectious Disease Trends in Ontario Interactive Tool](#)

Webinars

[Delivering HIV PrEP in Primary Care Settings](#) - Wednesday, October 7, 2026

- This webinar will explore the evolving landscape of HIV prevention in Ontario and provide practical strategies for delivering evidence-informed, patient-centred PrEP care.