

Public Health Update from Southwestern Public Health



For Health Care Providers in Oxford County, Elgin County, and the City of St. Thomas

August 7, 2024

An Update from Dr. Ninh Tran, Medical Officer of Health at Southwestern Public Health

Public Health: What You Need to Know

RSV PROGRAM UPDATE

- In late July, the Ministry expanded the Ontario routine immunization schedule for fall 2024 to include more infants, high-risk children and pregnant individuals for RSV vaccination.
 - The risk of severe outcomes from RSV infection is highest among infants under six months of age and children under 24 months of age with chronic conditions such as chronic lung disease, congenital heart disease, compromised immune systems, or neuromuscular disorders.
 - In alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, Beyfortus is the preferred product to protect infants. Receiving both Abrysvo and Beyfortus is not expected to provide additional benefits.
 - Sanofi's Beyfortus delivers passive immunization, providing protective antibodies to infants.
 - Pregnant individuals should consult with their health care provider before receiving Abrysvo.
- Review [the news release](#) for further information.

EXPLORING AN EXPANDED ROLE FOR PHARMACISTS

- Ontario is exploring an expanded scope for minor ailments as well as publicly funded adult vaccinations for pharmacy delivery. This work is being actively reviewed for implementation, pending consultation and negotiations.
- Read [the news release](#) for further information.

INCOME THRESHOLDS FOR SENIORS DENTAL CARE

- Effective August 1, 2024, annual income eligibility thresholds for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program changed for:
 - Single seniors with an annual income of \$25,000 or less (previously \$22,200)
 - Senior couples with a combined annual income of \$41,500 or less (previously \$37,100)
- **ACTION:** Share our website for further details at www.swpublichealth.ca/seniorsdental or visit the Ministry's website directly at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/dental-care-low-income-seniors>

Southwestern Public Health
www.swpublichealth.ca
1-800-922-0096



TICKS: REPORTING VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE CASES

- Report a suspected or confirmed case through the [Lyme disease reporting form](#)
- Or call Southwestern Public Health at 1-800-922-0096 ext. 3500
- Or fax a [report](#) to 519-631-1682.

WILDFIRE SMOKE RESOURCES

- With active wildfires in parts of Canada, the public and clinicians are reminded about the health risks associated with wildfire smoke and strategies to mitigate them.
- Refer to [Wildfire Smoke: CMAJ](#) for support. This piece focuses on the short-term effects of wildfire smoke if it were to become a risk.
- Refer to the new [Public Health Ontario wildfire webpage](#) for additional resources, including a [summarized review](#) of effectiveness of non-fit tested respirators for community settings.

SWPH IPAC WORKSHOP: OUTSMARTING OUTBREAKS

- The Southwestern Public Health IPAC hub and infectious disease team are hosting an Infection Control & Outbreak Workshop: Outsmarting Outbreaks. **This workshop is geared toward health care workers in Long Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, and Congregate Living Settings.**
 - Thursday September 12 2024 from 9:00AM to 3:30PM
 - Pine Knot Golf Club, Dorchester, ON
- Agenda topics include mental health & resiliency, adult vaccination, surveillance, outbreak prevention & control, antibiotic resistant organisms, and environmental cleaning & disinfection.
- How to register:
 - Cost is \$40 per ticket, which includes lunch and refreshments.
 - Register by September 4 2024 at <https://app.swpublichealth.ca/Forms/2024-SWPH-IPAC-Workshop>