

Public Health Update from Southwestern Public Health



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

September 11, 2024

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

Public Health: What You Need to Know

INFLUENZA VACCINATION UPDATE

- SWPH expects its first shipments of influenza vaccine to be available to health care providers the week of October 7.
- Each health care provider office, hospital partner, and Long Term Care/Retirement Home will be assigned a first allocation of both high-dose vaccine and QIV vaccine determined to ensure the highest priority clients have access to vaccine early in the season.
- As “start up” supply of the influenza vaccine will likely be available for pickup on or after October 10th, depending on [shipment arrival from the Ministry of Health](#). The maximum you will receive with this start up supply will be 50% of what you administered in 2023.
- Availability of flu vaccine for the general public is expected in late October or early November, with an official launch date pending with the Ministry of Health.
- Influenza products available during the 2024/25 Universal Influenza Immunization Program are expected to mirror those available last year (e.g., Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine, such as Flulaval Tetra and Fluzone, as well as High-Dose Quadrivalent and FluAd adjuvanted trivalent for those aged 65 years and older only). Flumist will not be available. More information to follow.

RESPIRATORY SEASON INFORMATION SESSION

- SWPH is hosting a virtual Fall Respiratory Season 2024 Information Session on Thursday, September 19 2024 at noon via MS Teams.
- This session is intended for health care providers to learn up-to-date information regarding the 2024 projected respiratory season.
- Dr. Ninh Tran will be joined by members of our Vaccine Preventable Diseases team, Infectious Diseases team, and our COVID Response team to answer any questions you and your team may have.
- **ACTION:** Invitations will be sent out on Friday, September 13, 2024. Please forward the invite to team members who may benefit from joining the information session.
- [Email Jessie Gordon](#) if you do not receive an invitation but would like to attend.

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



NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

- In partnership with the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program, SWPH now offers a nurse-led service to support eligible first-time parents or those pregnant with their first child who experience financial or social hardship.
- Enrolled clients are paired with a Public Health nurse until the child reaches 2 years of age to support them in healthy practices during pregnancy, developing safe and nurturing parenting skills, understanding how to access community resources, and developing life skills such as budgeting and managing stress.
- **Eligibility:** Individuals who are 24 years of age or younger; and pregnant with their first child OR pregnant and preparing to become a first-time parent; and 28 weeks or less gestation; and experiencing social or financial hardship; and living in Elgin County, Oxford County, or the City of St. Thomas.
- **Referrals:** If you have a client who could benefit from this program, call the Healthy Growth and Development team at 1-800-922-0096 or visit www.swpublichealth.ca/nursefamilypartnership. Individuals can self-refer as well.

MEASLES: SECOND DOSES

- The Infectious Disease Protocol of the Public Health Standards outlines the optimal timing for the 4-to-6-year MMRV dose is **at 4 years of age**. This is especially important if a child is attending daycare or school.
- **ACTION:** Prioritize MMRV immunizations for all children in your roster as soon as they are 4 years of age. Do not delay a second dose.

LEARNING: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS WEBINAR

- Ontario Health is hosting a webinar about screening and assessment guidance for substance use disorders on Friday, September 13 at 10AM.
- Register here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

LEARNING: PROVINCIAL HPV TESTING WEBINAR

- The South West Regional Cancer Program is hosting a webinar about the upcoming changes to cervical cancer screening on Wednesday, September 18 at 12:30PM.
- Register here: [Coming Soon: Provincial HPV Testing September 18th, 2024 12:30pm-1:30pm \(jotform.com\)](#)