

Recommendations for Travelers: Current Measles and VHF Activity

Travel has always been associated with potential risks to the health of travelers. The recent activity of measles and viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) highlight the importance of routinely asking if a patient has travelled, to what location(s) and in what activities he/she participated. The answers to these questions will provide valuable information regarding potential exposures to infectious diseases, assist with prompt diagnosis, allow appropriate treatment and prevent or limit the spread of disease.

Measles: Canada has been free of endemic measles since 1998; however, measles occurs globally and remains a serious and common disease in many countries. In Ontario, importation and travel-related cases still occur and have contributed to further transmission among populations without immunity. Between 2009 and 2012, 27 confirmed cases were reported in Ontario, of whom, 25 were directly or indirectly associated with travel outside of Canada. As of March 31, 2014, 11 cases of measles have been reported in Ontario, of whom, all were directly or indirectly associated with travel to the Philippines, Thailand and Europe. Information on clinical features of measles in addition to laboratory testing and IPC practices is available on the Public Health Ontario website www.publichealthontario.ca or at www.pcchu.ca | [For Professionals](#) | [Health Professionals](#) | [Alerts](#) | [April 4, 2014](#). In addition, the Disease-Specific Chapter (Appendix A) and Provincial Case Definition (Appendix B) for Measles have been updated and are effective immediately.

A summary of the changes related to measles is also included in the Document History sections of the Disease-Specific Chapters of Appendix A and Provincial Case Definitions of Appendix B. These documents are available through the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) website www.health.gov.on.ca or at www.pcchu.ca | [For Professionals](#) | [Health Professionals](#) | [Reportable Diseases](#) and found under [Links](#).

Ebola Virus Disease – West Africa: The Ministry of Health of Guinea has notified the World Health Organization of a rapidly evolving outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the country. As of March 28, 2014, a total of 112 confirmed and suspected cases including 70 deaths have been reported in Guinea. This includes six health care workers -- 4 confirmed and 2 suspected cases. Further reports of suspected cases in border areas of Liberia and Sierra Leone are being investigated. In addition, recent attention has focused on a Saskatchewan resident who was suspected of having EVD. He was a returning traveler who presented with clinically compatible signs and symptoms; however, all VHFs have since been ruled out.

Reliable Travel Information websites can be found at www.pcchu.ca | [Clinics & Classes](#) | [Travel Clinic](#) and found under [Links](#).

- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Centre for Disease Control
- World Health Organization

The Peterborough County-City Health Unit Travel Clinic is open Tuesday to Thursday by appointment 705-748-2021.

For more information, contact Infectious Disease Program staff at 705-743-1000, ext. 139.



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Availability of Combined Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella (MMRV) Vaccine

Please be aware that MMRV (Priorix-Tetra®) vaccine is currently unavailable from Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Service (OGPMSS).

For the upcoming months your order for MMRV vaccine will be automatically replaced. Each package of MMRV vaccine (10 doses/package) will be replaced by:

- one package of MMR vaccine (10 doses/package); and
- one package varicella vaccine (10 doses/package).

New supply of MMRV vaccine is expected to become available in May 2014.

For more information, contact Zina Allen or Cathy Schofield at 705-743-1000.



Important Information for Immunizers – Panorama is Coming!

The Health Unit will be moving towards the implementation of Panorama, a provincial initiative leading to a provincial immunization database/registry. Eventually, this system will be implemented throughout Canada and it will replace today's paper-based "yellow card."

The Health Unit has been scheduled to implement Panorama during the summer of 2014, just as the new changes to the Immunization of School Pupils' Act (ISPA) come into effect. The ISPA will now require proof of immunization against three additional designated diseases for school attendance. The three new diseases are: meningococcal disease, pertussis, and varicella. Proof of immunization for the new designated diseases will come into effect on July 1, 2014. The exemption forms will also be more user-friendly and available online.

If you have any questions regarding the new Panorama system, or the updated ISPA, please contact: Jessica Smith, RN, at 705-743-1000, ext 306.

The YSPI App: Connect to Help

Designed for youth, by youth, the Youth Service Provider Information (YSPI) App is designed to connect youth to the local services they need. Increasingly however, we are



hearing that the adults that work with youth are also finding YSPI to be a helpful app in

their healthcare toolkit. Download it for free today, and recommend it to your clients as well!



Visit www.pcchu.ca/youthapp for more information, or search YSPI in your Apple or Android store.

Infectious Diseases Experts Issue Guidance on Healthcare Personnel Attire

Recommendations to help prevent healthcare-associated infections transmitted through clothing

New guidance from the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) provides recommendations to prevent transmission of healthcare-associated infections through healthcare personnel (HCP) attire in non-operating room settings. The guidance was published online in the February 2014 issue of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, the journal of the SHEA, along with a review of patient and healthcare provider perceptions of HCP attire and transmission risk, suggesting professionalism may not be contingent on the traditional white coat.



“While studies have demonstrated the clothing of healthcare personnel may have a role in transmission of pathogens, the role of clothing in passing infectious pathogens to patients has not yet been well established,” said Gonzalo Bearman, MD, MPH, a lead author of the study and member of SHEA’s Guidelines Committee. “This document is an effort to analyze the available data, issue reasonable recommendations, define expert consensus, and describe the need for future studies to close the gaps in knowledge on infection prevention as it relates to HCP attire.”

The authors outlined the following practices to be considered by individual facilities:

1. **“Bare below the elbows” (BBE):** Facilities may consider adopting a BBE approach to inpatient care as a supplemental infection prevention policy; however, an optimal choice of alternate attire, such as scrub uniforms or other short sleeved personal attire, remains undefined. BBE is defined as wearing of short sleeves and no wristwatch, jewelry, or ties during clinical practice.
2. **White Coats:** Facilities that mandate or strongly recommend use of a white coat for professional appearance should institute one or more of the following measures:
 - a. HCP should have two or more white coats available and have access to a convenient and economical means to launder white coats (e.g. on site institution provided laundering at no cost or low cost).
 - b. Institutions should provide coat hooks that would allow HCP to remove their white coat prior to contact with patients or a patient’s immediate environment.
3. **Laundering:**
 - a. **Frequency:** Optimally, any apparel worn at the bedside that comes in contact with the patient or patient environment should be laundered after daily use.
 - b. **Home laundering:** If HCPs launder apparel at home, a hot water wash cycle (ideally with bleach) followed by a cycle in the dryer or ironing has been shown to eliminate bacteria.
4. **HCP footwear:** All footwear should have closed toes, low heels, and non-skid soles.
5. **Shared equipment** including stethoscopes should be cleaned between patients.
6. No general guidance can be made for prohibiting items like lanyards, identification tags and sleeves, cell phones, pagers, and jewelry, but those items that come into direct contact with the patient or environment should be disinfected, replaced, or eliminated.

If implemented, the authors recommend that all practices be voluntary and accompanied by a well-organized communication and education effort directed at both HCP and patients.

In their review of the medical literature, the authors noted that while patients usually prefer formal attire, including a white coat, these preferences had little impact on patient satisfaction and confidence in HCPs. Patients did not tend to perceive the potential infection risks of white coats or other clothing, however when made aware of these risks, patients seemed willing to change their preferences of HCP attire.

For more information visit www.pcchu.ca | For Professionals | Health Professionals | Infection Control and found under Resources.

Resources For HCPs

FREE Lunch and Learn on Child Health for Nurses, Receptionists, Secretaries

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

12:00 noon to 1:15 p.m.

Peterborough County-City Health Unit,
10 Hospital Drive, Board Room

Learn NEW Information about:

- Enhanced 18-Month Well-Baby Visit
- Nutrition for Healthy Term Infants
- Breastfeeding During Immunization & Painful Procedures
- Oral Health Programs & Services Eligibility Changes
- What is Physical Literacy?

R.S.V.P. to Anita Watts by April 25, 2014.

Hurry, only 10 spots left.

705-743-1003, ext. 282 OR

Fax: 705-741-4261

Email: awatts@pcchu.ca

Lunch provided.



A Tapestry of Seniors' Mental Health and Addictions Topics: Managing Complex Presentations

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Peterborough Golf and Country Club
1031 Armour Road, Peterborough, ON

Registration Fee: \$50.00

Registration Deadline: April 21, 2014

Includes all conference materials, refreshments and lunch
Registration is available online at the ONPEA website
(Under Training events) www.onpea.org

The Health Unit will be offering quarterly information sessions for Family Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and their nursing staff.

What's New with the Immunization of School Pupils Act

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

The information session will be held at the Peterborough County-City Health Unit,
10 Hospital Drive, Board Room

To register please call

705-743-1000, ext. 135

Refreshments Provided.

Resources For Patients

Visit www.pcchu.ca for information on:

Fluoride go to [My Life & Health | Parents & Caregivers | Fluoride in Drinking Water](#) and found under [Resources](#). Resources include: Fluoridated Water & Infants, Top 10 Facts about Fluoride, Fluoride Facts for Parents, and more.

School Immunization Checklist go to [My Life & Health | Parents & Caregivers | Immunization](#) and found under [Resources](#).

Health Events For Patients

Connecting Language and Mental Health in the Early Years

Friday, May 9, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Calvary Pentecostal Church,
1421 Lansdowne Street, W., Peterborough

Dr. Chaya Kulkarni, BAA, M.Ed, Ed.D
Director, Infant Mental Health Promotion,
The Hospital for Sick Children

Dr Kulkarni will discuss the importance of building strong, positive parent-child attachment relationships and increasing parent skills in promoting early communication and pre-literacy development in infants and young children.

Cost: \$35 parent/student

Payment must be received by Wednesday, May 1, 2013.

Registration, BY MAIL ONLY to:

SLHAP, P.O. Box 30043, RPO Chemong,
Peterborough, ON K9H 7R4



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Visit the FYI Newsletter archive at
www.pcchu.ca