

Polio Travel Health Notice

On May 5, 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the recent spread of poliovirus (polio) a public health emergency of international concern. They issued temporary polio vaccination recommendations to prevent further spread of the virus worldwide, to be reviewed after three months. These recommendations focus on countries exporting wild polio and other polio-affected countries: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia and Syria. These recommendations apply to residents of these countries prior to international travel and long-term visitors (staying more than four weeks) to these countries. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) will continue to monitor the situation and inform the public as information becomes available. For more information, refer to the following www.pcchu.ca | [For Professionals](#) | [Health Professionals](#) | [What's New](#).

For PHAC recommendations for healthcare providers and travellers, please visit www.canada.ca | [Travel](#) and search [WHO temporary polio vaccine recommendations](#).

Travel Advisory for the Hajj and Umrah

The Hajj is the largest annual gathering in the world. Almost three million Muslims attend this spiritual pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The Hajj season will take place this year between approximately October 2 and 7, 2014. Umrah, a similar pilgrimage that can be carried out at any time of the year, is expected to be especially busy during the month of Ramadan (approximately June 28 to July 28, 2014).

Due to the large number of people at these gatherings, there may be an increased risk for certain infectious diseases such as meningococcal disease, tuberculosis, influenza, and travellers' diarrhea. Travellers should also be aware of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), a virus identified in the Middle East that causes severe respiratory illness. Travellers may also face a greater risk of heat exhaustion, heat stroke and physical injuries.

For more information on safety and security for Canadian travellers, visit the Country Advice and Advisories for Saudi Arabia and the Public Health Agency of Canada Travel Advisory: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca | [Travel Health](#) | [Travel Health Notices](#) | click [More Travel Health Notices](#) and find [June 19, 2014](#).

Please refer patients travelling to these areas to the Peterborough County-City Health Unit Travel Clinic, open Tuesday to Thursday by appointment - 705-748-2021.

Request for Best Practices to Improve Healthcare Worker Influenza Immunization Rates

Thanks to your hard work and leadership, the provincial median healthcare worker influenza immunization (HCW II) coverage rate increased for the 2013-2014 flu season by 4.8% and 4% for hospitals and long-term care homes (LTCHs) respectively in Ontario. In order to build on this momentum, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) plans to compile and share with health units, hospitals and LTCHs:

1. Creative approaches for increasing HCW II rates at the facility level (e.g. holding a facility wide competition for the department with the highest HCW II coverage rate); and
2. HCW II data collection best practices (MOHLTC analysis has shown that some facilities are still not capturing HCW II rates for certain staff categories – notably students, volunteers and other contract staff).

Once compiled and finalized, the MOHLTC plans to post these best practices and/or distribute them as a standalone document in addition to presenting them during an educational webcast in the fall.

It would kindly be appreciated if you could share any best practices you have from hospitals and LTCHs in your facility for enhancing HCW II rates. Email these best practices to: Amir Kahn mouee, Policy Analyst, MOHLTC, amir.kahn mouee@ontario.ca or call 416-326-3003.


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- Ontario Health Profile: Infographics

Health Care Workers Guide to Extreme Heat Events

A new, free, accredited one-hour e-module entitled “Health Care Workers Guide to Extreme Heat Events” can help professionals keep up-to-date on the current state of heat-health evidence. Developed by Health Canada in collaboration with McMaster University, the Ontario College of Family Physicians and the Clean Air Partnership, this guided course is available on demand.

The course is designed for public health professionals, physicians and nurses, as well as healthcare workers working with people most at risk: seniors, children, outdoor workers, the physically active, and people with cardiovascular, respiratory or mental illness. The successful completion of the course is worth 1.5 CME credits from the Canadian College of Family Physicians and/or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. The course can be found online at www.extremeheat.ca.



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Home » Programs » Extreme Heat Events » Extreme Heat Events

Extreme Heat Events Program New

This program provides brochures, information, tools and resources for the public and health care providers on the dangers of extreme heat, and how to properly prevent heat-related illnesses.

Public


Information and links to prepare you for the visit.



Public ➔

Health Care Professionals

Tools and resources to support your practice.



Health Care Professionals ➔










program endorsed by:







Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers autorisée de l'Ontario

Speaking out for nursing. Speaking out for health.

Resources For HCPs

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

Influenza Update

Wednesday, September 24, 2014
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Antibiotic Resistant Organisms

Wednesday, December 10, 2014
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

All the information sessions 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

Local Syndromic Surveillance

Reports detail trends in emergency department visits for respiratory, fever, and gastrointestinal symptoms, as well as local institutional outbreaks and school absenteeism.

www.pcchu.ca go to [For Professionals](#) | [Health Professionals | Syndromic Surveillance](#)

Are Your Patients Ready for Extreme Heat This Summer?

With summer here the Health Unit has activated its Heat Alert and Response System (HARS) to advise residents of the best way to protect their health if and when temperatures soar.

The Health Unit has adopted a series of extreme heat thresholds designed to advise the public, health professionals, and community service providers of appropriate measures they can take to reduce the health effects of hot, humid and smoggy weather. Information about these three advisory levels is available at www.pcchu.ca go to [My Home & Environment](#) | [My Environment](#) | [Extreme Weather – Heat](#).

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.

Local Beach Testing go to [My Home & Environment | My Community | Beach Testing | Beach Testing Results](#) to find results posted daily.

School Immunization Checklist go to [My Life & Health | Parents & Caregivers | Immunization](#) and found under [Resources](#). Note new vaccinations take effect July, 2014.

Health Events For Patients

Prenatal Classes

Classes are ongoing from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (please call for class dates). All classes are held at the Peterborough County-City Health Unit, 10 Hospital Drive, Peterborough. The cost is \$50.00 and subsidies are available. Please let us know if the fee would prevent your patient from attending.



To register, call the Peterborough County-City Health Unit 705-743-1000, ext. 254

Prenatal Health Fair

Monday, September 30, 2014
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Holiday Inn, 150 George Street, Peterborough

STOP on the Road, Apsley

Coming this Fall 2014
For information, contact
Mary Pat Fasken
705-743-1000, ext. 217

Looking for a specific health topic? Visit the FYI Newsletter archive at www.pcchu.ca