

Influenza Season 2013-14

It's that time of year again, Flu Season!

To date Haldimand Norfolk has had a total of 25 lab confirmed Influenza cases, all influenza A.

If you know of clients who have not yet had their vaccination this year, please encourage them to get it as soon as possible....it's not too late.

If you need more vaccination, you can order influenza vaccination with your normal vaccination order form.

Tuberculosis (TB) Screening *changes in Long Term Care and Retirement Homes*

There have been some changes with regards to the screening for individuals who will be moving into a facility and/or are on a waiting list. These changes require any individual:

- Over the age of 65 years
- Aboriginal Canadians
- Born or previously residing in countries with high TB incidence

To have a history and physical examination completed by a physician/nurse practitioner within 90 days before their admission or within 14 days after their admission. The Canadian TB Standards (2007) recommend that the assessment include:

- A symptom review for active pulmonary TB disease
- **A chest x-ray (posterior-anterior and lateral)**
- If signs and symptoms and/or chest x-ray determine potential active pulmonary TB, three sputum specimens should be obtained at least eight hours apart and submitted to the Public Health Lab for Acid Fast Bacilli and culture testing.

The change in screen has gone from a TST to a chest x-ray, which is often easier to obtain before the client is admitted, especially if they are in hospital. Please consider for any clients you are caring for that may be waiting placement.



Hepatitis B Virus

A copy of a quick reference guide created by Public Health Agency of Canada (2013) regarding "*Primary Care Management of Hepatitis B*" can be found in your package. This reference is quite thorough and a great resource as well as a good review of Hepatitis B Virus.



Reportable Disease List

In December 2013, the Chief Medical Officer of Health reported changes to Ontario Regulation 559/91, the Specification of Reportable Diseases.

These changes include:

1. Additions:

- Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP)
- Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PS)

2. Removal:

- Cytomegalovirus infection, congenital
- Neonatal herpes
- Hepatitis D (Delta hepatitis)
- Fatal Familial Insomnia
- Gerstmann-Straussler-Scheinker Syndrome
- Kuru

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease is still reportable

An updated list has been sent to you with this newsletter; if you would like more please contact Stacey at 519-426-6170 Ext. 3270

We greatly appreciate your ongoing cooperation and collaboration working with us on the Infectious Disease Team with reportable diseases.



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