

Board of Health

Monthly Report- June 27, 2002

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The Suspension of Unvaccinated Students from Schools

Submitted by Jane Fitcher, Director of Clinical Services

Over the past several years the Health Unit has tried to obtain up-to-date immunization information on all school aged children. It is critically important to ensure high vaccination rates to prevent and respond to outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

Our process for obtaining the initial immunization data on school entry had been quite successful. However, following this initial input, our processes fail. The expectations are:

- ⌚ that parents provide the health unit with information each time a child receives a scheduled immunization.
- ⌚ that the schools provide immunization data on all entries and transfers to the school., and
- ⌚ that the school boards provide updated student lists every fall.



Our IRIS (Immunization Record Information System) program should be able to identify all students “at-risk” for a vaccine preventable illness, in every school, in every classroom every day. However, the system is only as good as the data we are able to obtain.

We regularly send letters home to parents to remind them to send copies of their children’s vaccination records to the health unit. Unfortunately this approach has been unsuccessful. Last spring (2001) we sent letters to all high schools to be attached to the final report card, indicating that the Medical Officer of Health could suspend students if we did not receive this information. We received less than 300 responses to the several thousand letters sent.

In April this year, we again reached out to the parents through a mass mailing, this time identifying those 17, 18 and 19 year olds who, according to our records had not received their 14-16 year old booster for TdP (tetanus, diphtheria and polio). Parents were asked to provide the health unit with the missing immunization data, or provide consent and encouragement for their child to attend one of the health unit immunization clinics being offered at all the high schools. The letter clearly indicated that if this information was not received by April 15th, or the student did not attend an immunization clinic, the adolescent could be suspended from school by the Medical Officer of Health.

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CONTACT US:
 We welcome your comments and suggestions for the Board Report at board@healthunit.org

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The results of this mailing and attendance at the clinics have been disappointing. Because of this, we have decided to move forward with enforcement as outlined within the Immunization of School Pupils Act (1990). We have notified 600 or more students in the two school boards that they must provide documentation of their immunizations by August 15, 2002 or they will be suspended from school on September 3, 2002. The letters of suspension have been distributed by the individual schools. The school boards have been notified of this and are in support of this enforcement action.

As this is the first time that the health unit has decided to go forward with suspensions, students will have two months in which to be immunized and to forward written confirmation of the immunization to the health unit.

At the end of September we will “spot check” ten to fifteen elementary schools to ensure that the immunization data is up-to-date. Many children enter school before they have completed their primary series of immunizations. Each child requires a booster at 4-6 years old. If the child entered school before this immunization was given, and the parents HAVE NOT sent a copy of the immunization record to the health unit, this child will show up as “at-risk” or “over-due” on the IRIS program. Thus, in October, many parents will be receiving an official request for information with the possibility of suspension from school if the information IS NOT received within a certain time frame.

From this point on, the health unit will be systematically reviewing all students’ immunization records every year.

If parents have any questions about their child’s immunization record, they should call 1-800-660-5853 (the Health Action Line) or 345-5685 and ask for the IRIS administrator, who will be pleased to provide this information.

What Are We PACing For?

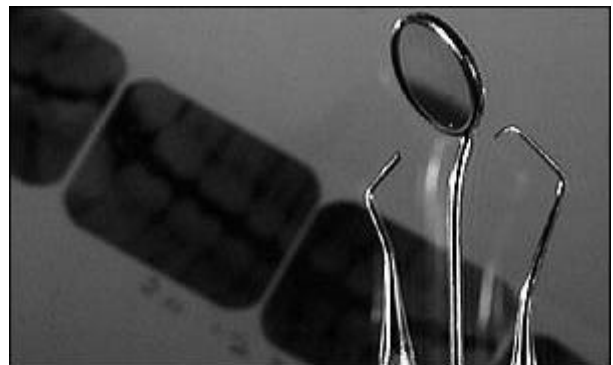
Submitted by Leslie Redmond, Registered Dental Hygienist

PAC is the acronym for Preventive Agent Clinic. PAC’s are the opportunity for Health Unit Dental Program staff to provide mandated services to clients eligible by criteria outlined in the Ministry of Health Protocol.

These services include scaling and polishing teeth to clean them, fluoride applications and pit and fissure sealants to prevent decay, and oral health/hygiene instruction to encourage home maintenance.

These clients are identified through the Dental Program’s administration of the Ontario Ministry of Health Dental Program for Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT). According to CINOT guidelines, funding is limited to emergency or essential dental treatment; therefore, clinical preventive services are not covered when done in a dental office.

These services can be provided in the newly equipped and efficient Brockville Health Unit clinic. We also have mobile equipment and here is where we get packing. This equipment includes a portable compressor, dental chair, the “office-in-a-box” and field kits. These kits are packed full of all the instruments and disposable supplies needed to provide preventive programs.



With the mobile equipment, clinics can be offered in various locations in the tri-county area.

In the last year, 26 clinics offered services to 137 children, and 13 clients received sealants. With the addition of new staff members, it is hoped that those numbers will increase.

Our philosophy is that “we believe children are our primary resource for the future and that good oral health is essential to the overall health and well being of children.” Because of that, you could say we’re PACing for the FUTURE.

Municipal Tobacco Bylaw Development Update: Go for Gold!

Submitted by Yves Decoste, Tobacco Coordinator

The (OTN) Ontario Tobacco-Free Network has updated the map on bylaw development in Ontario. There have been great successes municipally on protecting the public from exposure to second-hand smoke in workplaces and public places.



- ⌚ Tecumseh town council passed, on May 14th, an Ottawa style bylaw prohibiting smoking in workplaces, bars, restaurants, private clubs and bingos. The Windsor Essex County Health Unit, local OPP and town staff will enforce the bylaw.
- ⌚ Brantford city council voted on May 27th to strengthen parts of their bylaw and under public demand and concern voted not to change the implementation date of June 1, 2002. Bars, restaurants and other public places will be smoke-free; the Casino will be 100% smoke-free as of September 1, 2002.
- ⌚ Cornwall went smoke-free as of May 1, 2002. Bars are phasing in a 50/50 split to go completely smoke-free as of May 1, 2003. The Eastern Ontario Health Unit enforces the bylaw.
- ⌚ Oakville establishments will be smoke-free as of May 31, 2002 including restaurants, bars, theatres, taxis and bowling alleys. Private clubs are exempt from the bylaw unless such places are loaned or rented for public events.
- ⌚ Milton council approved a bylaw banning smoking in workplaces and public places with the exception of Bingo Country, the gaming floor of the Mohawk Slots and private clubs, as long as they are not open to the public.
- ⌚ A new bylaw will be in effect June 1, 2002 in Hamilton. Smoking will be allowed only in designated areas in work places, restaurants and bowling centres. Smoking will be banned in all family restaurants that cater to families with children.
- ⌚ The Counties of Grey and Bruce respectively passed bylaws recently. Grey counties bylaw is an Ottawa style bylaw while, Bruce County put in exemptions for the Legion.

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Gold	Silver	Under Development	
Waterloo Region (01/01/00) Guelph (30/12/00) Ottawa (01/08/01) Clearview Township (31/05/02) Essa Township (31/05/02) Milton Oakville (31/05/02) Springwater Township (31/05/02) Orillia (01/06/02)	Perth South (02/11/99) Peterborough (01/01/00) Terrace Bay (30/04/01) Schreiber (30/04/01) Peel Region (01/06/01) Brampton(01/06/01) Caledon (01/06/01) Mississauga (01/06/01) Toronto (01/06/01) York Region (01/06/01) Cornwall (01/05/02) Hamilton (01/06/02)	Ear Falls (Gold - 03/09/02) Grey County (Gold - 09/03/02) Sudbury (Gold - 31/05/03) Brantford (Silver - 01/06/02) Perth East (Silver - 15/01//03) Niagara Region (Silver - 31/05/03) Barrie Belleville Bruce County Burlington Chatham -Kent Cobourg Collingwood	Elliot Lake Halton Hills Kapuskasing Kingston London Muskoka (District of) Prince Edward County Quinte West Russell Township Sault St. Marie Tecumseh Thunder Bay Timiskaming Timmins

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Other interesting developments:

- ⌚ The City of Brandon passed a 100% smoke-free bylaw on May 28th. This will include all workplaces, including bars and restaurants and will go into effect October 1, 2002. Brandon will be the first prairie city with a 100% smoke-free bylaw.
- ⌚ The attempt by the Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association to allow smoking in restaurants equipped with a new type of ventilation system in the City of Toronto has been rejected by councilors. The bylaw now stipulates that restaurant owners must build a designated smoking room if they want to allow smoking. The same bylaw will apply to bars in June 1, 2004.
- ⌚ Delaware's smoke-free workplace legislation has been sent to the governor for her signature. She has repeatedly indicated her support to sign it. The law will go into effect 180 days thereafter and provide all Delaware workers (including restaurant bar and casino workers) with a safe, healthy, smoke-free work environment.
- ⌚ A Manhattan co-op banned new apartment owners from smoking in their units, a move real estate experts called the first of its kind. Potential buyers must tell the board whether they smoke, according to the new reported rules. Under the rules, which took effect April 22, violators of rules could be evicted and forced to sell their homes. Current apartment owners may still smoke at home.
- ⌚ Smoking will be banned in all competition and non-competition venues in Athens during the 2004 Olympics. Smoking will be prohibited in the main press centre and the bleachers and stands at all outdoor sports and arenas, including the beach volleyball area. In a concession to smokers, special smoking areas will be established.



Press Release

Appeal Court upholds Ottawa smoke-free bylaws

Ottawa – At a hearing in Toronto, the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled in favour of the City of Ottawa's Smoke-Free bylaw in dismissing appeals by PUBCO and the Rideau-Carleton Raceway, with costs. A three-judge panel ruled the City of Ottawa has the legal right to prohibit smoking in public places and workplaces under the powers granted to municipalities by the Ontario Municipal Act.

“We are satisfied with the Court decision. The Court of Appeal has confirmed what the Superior Court of Justice held last August – that the City is acting under clear legislative authority set out in the Municipal Act,” said Michael Rankin, the lawyer representing the City.

PUBCO, an organization of local pub and bar owners, and Rideau-Carleton Raceway and Slots challenged the bylaws.

“This decision confirms Ottawa City Council’s desire to put the health of our citizens first,” said Mayor Bob Chiarelli. The Mayor also noted that since the legal challenge began, the Rideau-Carleton Raceway has expanded and 82 new bars and restaurants have opened.

Another Successful Year for North Grenville Road Safety Challenge!

Submitted by Arla Casselman-Veinotte, Public Health Nurse

During the week of May 4-12, the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit participated in the 2002 North Grenville Road Safety Challenge for the fourth consecutive year. The 2002 Road Safety Challenge was sponsored by the Government of Ontario, State Farm Insurance Company, and 3M.

The goal of this initiative was to raise public awareness of road safety practices and to continue promoting North Grenville's award winning campaign-**White Tail Alert**. The campaign focuses on the prevention of wildlife/vehicle collisions. The White Tail Alert display was present at various road safety events during the week. Over 60 people participated in the White Tail quiz for a free draw of a \$25.00 gas coupon. In addition, over 300 deer whistles were randomly distributed during the various R.I.D.E. and seatbelt checks by the O.P.P.



The Challenge began with a Car Seat Clinic on May 4th at the Canadian Tire. Patricia Sawarna, Public Health Nurse, Kemptville Office organized this successful event. Public Health Nurses, O.P.P. and trained community volunteers inspected 45 car seats. All of the 45 car seats required some form of adjustment to pass the standards of safety. Parents and grandparents learned that simply using a car seat is not enough. A car seat has to be used properly to be safe and effective, by strapping the child into the seat firmly and ensuring the seat is secured according to manufacturer's instructions. Unintentional misuse can put a child at risk of injury or death each time they ride in the car.



During the entire week of the Challenge, eight talented students (grade 8) from Kemptville Public School acted as peer educators, performing in a bike helmet show at four local schools. **Keep Your Head, Stay Smart, Wear A Helmet**- the award winning entry in the child safety category of the 2001 Road Safety Challenge was produced and directed by Arla Casselman-Veinotte, Public Health Nurse of the Kemptville Office. This theater troupe performed 12 shows in 4 days, delivering many poignant facts and messages on bike helmet safety to over 1500 students and staff. The ultimate goal of the show was to raise student awareness of bike helmets and their importance in preventing injuries and saving lives. As follow-up to the show, the Road Safety Committee issued over 1750 bike helmet tickets to every student in the four area schools. These tickets encouraged students to have their bike helmets check done by the O.P.P, the Health Unit or at the Bike Rodeo scheduled during the weekend. These tickets were placed in a draw for fabulous gift certificates.

On May 11th, the Road Safety Committee hosted a successful bike rodeo. Public Health Nurses, Arla Casselman-Veinotte and Carol Quinlan, coordinated the bike helmet inspection clinic. Over 90 helmets were assessed with only one passing the inspection. An additional 47 helmets were checked throughout the week with very few meeting the recommended standards of safety. The Kemptville Kinsmen demonstrated the "Melon Drop" during the rodeo; a powerful tool that provided the children with a graphic presentation of how bike helmets protect riders from serious injuries.

The continued success of the North Grenville Road Safety Challenge cannot only be contributed to the dedication and commitment of all the committee members, supporters, and volunteers but to the community itself.

Ontario has the safest roads in Canada and second safest in North America. This event was North Grenville's fourth chance to prove it and we did it!