

TO: Board of Health
MEETING DATE: April 4, 2018
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REPORT NO.: **BH.01.APR0418.C09**
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Key Points

- There were over 30% fewer cases of gonorrhoea reported in 2017 than in 2016.
- 100% positive cases of Gonorrhoea were followed up by Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) within two (2) business days.
- 68% of the positive cases were treated as per Ontario Guidelines.

Strategic Directions & Goals

Service Centred Approach - We are committed to providing excellent service to anyone interacting with public health.

- We will improve access to public health programs and services while enhancing the client experience.

Health Equity - We will provide programs and services that integrate equity principles to reduce or eliminate health differences between population groups.

- We will work to improve health services for priority populations.
- We will advocate for development of policies that address health inequities. Policy development that address health inequities.

Operational Plan Objectives

WDGPH will:

- Support community care providers in treating their clients who test positive for gonorrhoea through guidance, consultation, treatment and provision of recommended medications; and
- Create and implement health promotion approaches/initiatives that increase the adoption of healthy behaviours among the population regarding sexual health practices and injection drug use to prevent and reduce exposures to sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections.

Summary of OPHS Program Requirements

OPHS Program: Sexual Health, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Blood-borne Infections

Goals:

- To prevent or reduce the burden of infectious diseases of public health importance.

Strategy:

- Assessment and Surveillance
- Disease Prevention/Health Protection

Requirements:

- The board of health shall provide public health management of cases, contacts, and outbreaks to minimize the public health risk in accordance with the *Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted/Blood-Borne Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2018* (or as current).

Accountability Indicators:

Gonorrhea Program Accountability Indicator 2017	
Deliverable	Achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100% of confirmed gonorrhea cases where initiation of follow-up occurred within two (2) business days	100%
Gonorrhea Program Monitoring Indicator 2017	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• % of confirmed gonorrhea cases treated according to recommended Ontario treatment guidelines	68% Increased from 60% in 2016

Performance variance or discrepancy identified:

No

Highlights

Gonorrhea is the second most commonly reported sexually transmitted infection in Ontario and North America. Left untreated, gonorrhea can lead to a host of complications including pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility, and blood stream infections. In Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph

(WDG), for 2017, there were fewer positive gonorrhoea cases than the previous year. In total, there were 57 cases in 2017 which is over 30% less than in 2016.

WDGPH receives reports on all positive cases of gonorrhoea in our catchment area and follows up with the respective healthcare provider and/or client. Follow-up includes contact tracing, assessment of treatment regime and provision of medications, as required.

Treatment options for gonorrhoea are limited and resistance to treatment is a global concern. Public Health Ontario (PHO) treatment guidelines for gonorrhoea differ from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) guidelines which can cause confusion in the health care provider community. When a positive gonorrhoea result is obtained, WDGPH connects with health care providers within two (2) business days to discuss using the PHO treatment guidelines and offer to provide treatment to the client on the health care provider's behalf. Treatment now includes an injection into the thigh along with oral medication.

There is 100% compliance to PHO treatment guidelines when treatment is provided directly by Public Health. Reduced compliance occurs when a client is treated by a community health care provider prior to a discussion with Public Health, or in circumstances where the client is allergic to the medication or refuses an injection (eg. too traumatic following sexual assault). However, compliance is up from 60% last year to 68% this year. There are no known cases of antibiotic treatment resistance in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph. WDGPH continues to work with healthcare providers in the community to provide education on the PHO Guidelines, support contact tracing and access to medication.

Related Reports

- **Clinical Services- Gonorrhoea (January- December 2016), (April 2017):** [Clinical Services – Gonorrhoea \(January–December 2016\) – Program/Service Information Report.](#)