
SUBJECT: Invasive Group A Strep Memo from the Ontario Ministry of Health
Date: May 25, 2023
Pages: 1 plus attachment
To: Health Care Providers, Hospitals, Pediatricians
From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO

Please find attached an important memo from the Ministry of Health regarding trends in Group A Streptococcal Disease (iGAS) in Ontario. Similar to what was seen in European countries earlier this year, Ontario is seeing an increase in iGAS cases in all age groups, including and importantly in children under 18 years of age.

Please be alert for the compatible signs and symptoms of non-invasive GAS infections, such as pharyngitis and soft tissue infections. Individuals who are treated for GAS are not considered infectious after 24 hours. Those at greatest risk are infants, young children, pregnant or postpartum, immunocompromised, older adults or those with a recent viral infection including chicken pox. Please ensure that your eligible patients are up to date with their varicella vaccine to decrease this risk factor. Public health may recommend that you provide post-exposure prophylaxis for close contacts for clinically severe cases of iGAS.

In the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph region, we have not seen an increase of iGAS cases, and no cases under the age of 18 years however neighbouring regions are seeing an increase. This is a situation that we continue to monitor and will keep you updated with any new developments. Please continue to report iGAS cases or clusters to the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit, Infectious Diseases program at 519-822-2715 or 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4752.

For more information, please contact:

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