

Date: August 5, 2026

From: Dr. Dueck, Medical Officer of Health

Re: Changes to Ontario's Publicly Funded Pneumococcal Vaccine Program and Tick-Borne Disease Update

Please distribute this advisory regarding changes to Ontario's publicly funded pneumococcal vaccine program and tick-borne diseases to all health care providers who require it.

Changes to Ontario's Publicly Funded Pneumococcal Vaccine Program

The Ministry of Health has announced upcoming changes to Ontario's publicly funded pneumococcal vaccine program.

Effective August 17, 2026, Ontario's routine publicly funded pneumococcal immunization program for adults 65 years of age and older will transition to the 21-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Pneu-C-21, Capvaxive®).

Please note:

- Routine immunization for individuals 65 years of age and older will transition to Pneu-C-21 (Capvaxive®).
- Eligibility criteria for Ontario's publicly funded pneumococcal vaccine program are not otherwise changing.
- Re-vaccination is not part of this product transition.
- The program transition is scheduled to begin August 17, 2026.

Action for Health Care Providers

Please review the Ministry of Health fact sheets for additional information:

- [Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines for Adults Aged 18 Years and Older](#)
- [Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines for Children Aged 6 Weeks to 17 Years](#)

If you have any questions about vaccine ordering, please contact Lambton Public Health at vaccineorders@county-lambton.on.ca.

Increased Awareness of Tick-Borne Diseases in Ontario

Lambton Public Health is reminding health care providers to remain vigilant for tick-borne diseases in patients with compatible clinical symptoms and a history of potential exposure to blacklegged ticks.

There are four tick-borne diseases of public health significance that are transmitted by blacklegged ticks in Ontario: Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and Powassan virus disease. The prevalence of tick-borne diseases is expected to increase across Ontario due to warming temperatures and changes in land use that support the expansion of blacklegged tick populations.

Local Context

After Lyme disease, anaplasmosis is the second most common tick-borne disease in Ontario, with Lambton Public Health reminding providers of the presence of this disease in Ontario and the importance of confirming exposure information. Currently, the highest rates of Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis have been reported in southeastern Ontario jurisdictions, coinciding with areas of established blacklegged tick populations.

Actions for Health Care Providers

- Individuals with potential exposure to blacklegged tick bites in [risk areas](#) and compatible clinical signs/symptoms (acute onset of fever accompanied by chills, headache, myalgia, arthralgia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, and/or elevated liver enzymes) may consider including testing for [Anaplasma](#).
- Health care providers are encouraged to view the [Public Health Ontario Rounds: Tick-Borne Diseases in Ontario](#) webinar for an overview of the epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, and management of tick-borne diseases in Ontario.
- Anaplasmosis, Lyme disease, babesiosis, and Powassan virus disease are [diseases of public health significance](#) in Ontario. Suspected and confirmed cases must be reported to Lambton Public Health in accordance with the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.
- Please access the [Lyme Disease Reporting Form](#) when reporting a case of Lyme disease to Lambton Public Health.

Additional Resources

- Public Health Ontario's [Test Information Index](#) provides guidance on testing indications for tick-borne diseases of public health significance.
- As diseases of public health significance in Ontario, these tick-borne diseases' testing and case management information are available under the [Infectious Diseases Protocol Appendix 1 for Disease](#) (access under the applicable alphabetical letter of the Infectious Diseases Protocol section).