

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2015 December 10

SUMMARY INFORMATION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2015

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No. 70-15 re Information Summary Report for December 2015 be received for information.

Key Points

- Only 29.5% of children 4-8 years in Ontario and Quebec are correctly restrained when riding in motor vehicles. A multi-faceted education/awareness campaign coupled with free booster seats has been a focus in child injury prevention to increase the use and decrease the risk of injury and death as a result of motor vehicle collisions.
- Between 500-1000 refugees are expected in the Middlesex-London region in the next few months. Health care organizations and community support groups participated in a planning meeting organized by the London Intercommunity Health Centre with the goal of bringing key stakeholders together. MLHU will be partnering with primary health care and other stakeholders to ensure that health care needs of refugees are met in a timely and coordinated manner.

Background

This report provides a summary of information from Health Unit programs. Additional information is available on request.

“Kids Need a Boost” Booster Seat Campaign

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children 1-14 years of age. In Middlesex-London, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injury in all age groups. Although there is a law that requires parents to use booster seats for their children, only 29.5% of children 4-8 years of age in Ontario and Quebec are correctly restrained. In 2014 and 2015, in collaboration with the Middlesex-London Child Safety Committee, MLHU led a booster seat campaign. The campaign is multi-faceted and includes education and awareness to parents through schools, communities, health care providers and community partners. To address the barriers, an education campaign to increase the awareness and the knowledge of parents and the distribution of free booster seats were implemented. A variety of communication channels were used to reach the target population: Twitter and Facebook ads, the Health Unit website, radio ads, media releases and 32 events were attended. The campaign provided general information to parents, directed them to the Health Unit Booster Seat website, and notified them of free booster seats for families in need. In total, 860 booster seats will be distributed to families in London and Middlesex.

Syrian Refugees will be arriving to Middlesex-London

Federal government made a commitment to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada, 10,000 of which are expected by the end of 2015. London, along with five other designated refugee placement sites in Ontario, will be among the first cities to welcome refugees. It is estimated that between 500 and 1,000 refugees will arrive in the Middlesex-London region in the coming months. Immigration pre-screening, which includes screening for Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV, will be completed before their arrival. All Government Assisted Refugees will receive Interim Federal Health coverage upon arrival to Canada. It is still unclear whether privately funded refugees will receive same level of coverage as government assisted refugees.

A health care planning meeting was held at the London Intercommunity Health Centre (LIHC) with about 30 participants from over ten health care and community support organizations, including Cross Cultural Learning Centre, London Health Sciences Centre, South West Community Care Access Centre, South West Local Health Integration Network, Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Inclusion, to help refugees to navigate through health care system and connect them with community organizations. Several working groups emerged from this meeting, including primary care and public health, child health, mental health. MLHU will participate in these working groups along with other key stakeholders to ensure that the needs of newcomers are met in coordinated and timely manner.



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