

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: May 19, 2016

SUMMARY INFORMATION REPORT - MAY 2016

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No. 037-16 re: Summary Information Report for May 2016 be received for information.

Key Points

- The Health Unit celebrated National Oral Health Month during April 2016 with internal and external Health Unit activities to raise awareness of oral health inequities, the importance of oral health as a component of general health, and the new Healthy Smiles Ontario program.
- The Vector Borne Disease (VBD) Program 2015 Annual Report ([Appendix A](#)) describes the activities and the various components of the program which is aimed at reducing the transmission of West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and Lyme disease (LD) to the residents of Middlesex-London.

Background

National Oral Health Month

April 2016 was National Oral Health Month. April 2016 was also National Minority Health Month in the USA. This report provides a summary of the Health Unit's activities for Oral Health Month 2016.

Staff participated in weekly quizzes about oral health inequities, dental preventive measures, and the Healthy Smiles Ontario program. Similar content was shared with the community through a month-long external social media campaign.

The Health Unit participated in a continent-wide Oral Health Equity social media storm to raise awareness of inequities in access to dental care. Of 296 contributors, the Health Unit was a top Twitter contributor, creating 107,000 impressions with 12 tweets. The total estimated reach and exposure of the storm were 370,677 accounts and over 2.5 million impressions.

Staff assisted the London & District Dental Society in the design and distribution of its Oral Health Month initiative: an educational resource entitled *The Oral Health Implications of Methadone Use*. Over 200 local dentists and more than 19 community agencies received copies of the print brochure.

Vector-Borne Disease Program: 2015 Annual Report

The VBD Team continues its surveillance and control program to monitor and reduce WNV, EEE and LD activity in Middlesex-London. A combination of positive WNV activity and the presence of a significant number of vector mosquito species demonstrate the need for continued surveillance, viral testing, larvicide treatments, and public education to prevent disease transmission.

Although no locally acquired cases of LD have been identified to date, local blacklegged tick submissions increased in 2015. The northern part of Middlesex County has been identified by Public Health Ontario as a LD risk area ([Appendix B](#)) due to its close proximity to the Pinery Provincial Park indicating a need for increased passive and active surveillance and public education in 2016.

As per Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Public Health Ontario recommendations, the MLHU will cease collection and testing of dead birds in 2016 but will continue receiving dead bird reports from the public for surveillance purposes. Other components of the VBD Program will also be reviewed in 2016 to maximize program efficiency and address emerging needs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Mackie', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Christopher Mackie, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and CEO