

## **Celebrating Canadian Public Health Week 2022 – MLHU in Action!**

*April 2022*

### **Environmental Health and Infectious Diseases:**

1. On average PHIs investigate approximately 1200 reported animal bites in MLHU (with 11 rabies positive animals identified in Ontario 2021, and 49 in 2020)
2. Over 700 Immunizers were trained for COVID-19 vaccine clinics.
3. There were 17,000 letters recently that will be sent out to Grade 9 to Grade 12 students (cohort of approximately 25,000) that have not reported or have not been immunized for required vaccines.
4. MLHU's customer service representatives (CSRs) completed 111,000 surveys for data capture since the start of the pandemic, reflecting the number of phone calls to the Health Unit over that time.
5. Sexual Health managed 2,673 cases of Syphilis, HIV, Hep B and C, Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in 2018, 2,823 in 2019 and 2,313 in 2021.
6. Through the pandemic, Public Health Inspectors continued to inspect restaurants and pools, and expanded their support to other businesses and premises. They answered regulatory questions for sports leagues, dance facilities, dog groomers, non-food manufacturing plants, and construction sites.

### **Healthy Living:**

1. The Healthy Living Division champions and influences public policy in a broad range of areas impacting population health. Examples include: built environment and healthy community design; food systems; prevention of injury; substance-related policy and more!
2. On average, the Oral Health Team screens approximately 21,000 elementary school children per year. To date, the Oral Health Team has identified 883 children in need of urgent dental care.
3. Prior to COVID-19, nurses in secondary schools conducted over 2000 situational supports with students per school year. Approx. 60 to 65% of visits are about matters of sexual health.
4. Since 2019, Tobacco Enforcement Officers have conducted 2,340 youth test shopping inspections at tobacco and vapour product retailers to assess their compliance with preventing sales to people under the age of 19 years.
5. In partnership with the Southwest Tobacco Control Area Network, 'Dog and Tom' is an evidence-informed social marketing campaign on Instagram that aims to increase smoking abstinence and to prevent the escalation of addiction in young adult males aged 19-24 working in industry, trades, hospitality and the sales sector. Dog and Tom are cartoon characters who deliver impactful messages that resonate with young adults.

#### **London Office**

Suite 110, 355 Wellington St, London, ON N6A 3N7  
tel: (519) 663-5317 • fax: (519) 663-9581

[www.healthunit.com](http://www.healthunit.com)  
[health@mlhu.on.ca](mailto:health@mlhu.on.ca)

#### **Strathroy Office - Kenwick Mall**

51 Front St. E., Strathroy ON N7G 1Y5  
tel: (519) 245-3230 • fax: (519) 245-4772

6. In 2022, with the support of the City of London COVID Recovery fund, the Middlesex-London Food Policy Council (MLFPC), of which MLHU is one of the founding members, is updating the 2016 Community Food Assessment with a focus on the impact of climate change and COVID-19 on the local food system. The results will help to inform recommendations for future action by the MLFPC and its members.
7. In 2022, over \$200 000 of Harvest Bucks (vouchers redeemable for fresh vegetables and fruit at local markets) will be distributed to community members through over 50 community programs.

### **Healthy Start:**

1. Pregnant individuals and families with young children are supported by public health nurses through the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) and the Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) home visiting programs. The HBHC program supports prenatal families with children up to school age, and the NFP program supports young, first-time parents during their pregnancy and the first two years of their child's life. Home visits are also provided to those experiencing significant breastfeeding challenges.
2. The MLHU has a program called iHEAL that is for women that have experienced any type of violence from a partner or ex-partner. iHEAL provides support to help women manage common challenges on their pathway to happier, healthier, safer lives.
3. In total, Healthy Start Division has completed 27,980 home/community visits in the last 5 years. In non-pandemic times, the division provides approximately 7,000 visits each year.
4. Since its launch in October 2021, the iHEAL program has had 99 significant interactions and visits.
5. MLHU offers prenatal e-learning that can be done in the comfort of your home at your own pace. Our website also has lots of information to help you have a healthy pregnancy. For more information about prenatal support, please visit <https://www.healthunit.com/prenatal-health>.
6. MLHU also has information, booklets, videos and facts sheets – some in multiple languages. For more information, visit our website!

### **Healthy Organization**

1. The Operations team procured over 500,000 masks since the start of the pandemic. MLHU also packaged, organized, and delivered more than 40,000 COVID-19 PCR swabs to the community for testing, mostly to support long-term care homes and retirement homes.
2. Since mid-2018 the Strategic Projects team has managed, lead, or supported over 35 large scale organizational projects including the relocation to Citi Plaza and the introduction of the electronic client record system.
3. Over the past 4 years, the Privacy Office has responded to 23 PHIPA and 51 MFIPPA access requests and has had 100% compliance meeting deadlines.

4. Since the start of the pandemic 3.9 million users have visited the MLHU’s website. The most visited pages in that time have been the COVID-19 landing page (4.5 million page views), the COVID-19 vaccine eligibility page (3.2 million page views) and the Summary of local COVID-19 cases / Power Bi dashboard (2.9 million page views).
5. The Finance team will oversee the administration of about \$65 million dollars during 2022, and processes bi-weekly payroll for about 850 staff.
6. During the COVID-19 response, the IT team provided support to an expanded MLHU workforce of over 900 Staff. The team also created a robust and redundant IT system to support four Mass Vaccination Sites serving the London and Middlesex Areas.
7. The Human Resources team was recognized as a finalist for “Best Remote Work Strategy” at the 2021 Canadian HR Awards. In 2021, the HR team recruited and onboarded an average of 66 new employees each month, with the highest being 122 employees in March. Prior to the pandemic, the team typically recruited just under 100 employees over the course of a full year.

#### **Office of the Medical Officer of Health:**

1. MLHU has a newly-formed Anti-Black Racism Advisory Group with 18 community members who will support and guide the implementation of our [Anti-Black Racism Plan](#).
2. Colonialism and its historical and ongoing impacts are a key determinant of health for Indigenous peoples, and systemic inequities imposed on Indigenous peoples must be addressed. MLHU is committed to sustaining efforts to realize change – [Taking Action on Reconciliation: An Organizational Plan for the Middlesex-London Health Unit](#).
3. The harms associated with crystal methamphetamine use is an emerging public health issue. Between 2018 and 2020, the rate of deaths involving crystal methamphetamine toxicity among Middlesex-London residents was significantly higher than provincial rates. In 2021, MLHU developed and released a new [crystal methamphetamine data dashboard](#).
4. Looking for information about the health the Middlesex-London community? Check out MLHU’s [Community Health Status Resource](#) for information about healthy development, child health, chronic diseases, and much, much more!

#### **COVID-19 Response:**

1. So far, the MLHU Communications Department has hosted 250 Virtual Media Briefings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The first was held on April 6th, 2020. For comparison’s sake there were only 236 episodes of Friends between 1994 and 2004.
2. The COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution program supports 42 long-term care homes/retirement homes/hospitals and 51 Primary care sites, totaling 93 sites with a fulsome training and support to provide COVID-19 vaccines.

4. There have been well over 2,000 users trained in the COVID-19 Vaccine provincial database (COVAX) to record vaccinations. 85% of all long-term care homes and retirement homes now participate in the program to independently give COVID-19 vaccine to their staff and residents.
5. The Infectious Disease Control team responded to 715 reported cases of COVID-19 at the peak of the Omicron wave, ensuring timely direction and guidance regarding isolation and quarantine.
6. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, MLHU's [COVID-19 data dashboard](#) has helped keep the community informed. Between May 2020 when the site was launched and the end of March 2022:
  - The site has been visited more than 3.6 million times from MLHU's website. This doesn't include those who may have bookmarked the site!
  - The data was reconciled and refreshed more than 630 times.
  - The site content was enhanced and updated 33 times, to better meet the needs of MLHU and community partners as the COVID-19 situation evolved.
7. Between December 23, 2020 when the first COVID-19 vaccine doses were given in the Middlesex-London region and February 28, 2022:
  - More than 760,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered at mass vaccination and hospital-based clinics.
  - Nearly 19,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered in long-term care homes and retirement homes by MLHU and the homes themselves, providing protection for staff and residents in these high-risk settings.
  - Pharmacies have given more than 230,000 vaccinations, helping to provide protection to all community members in convenient, local settings.
  - MLHU has administered more nearly 42,000 COVID-19 vaccines in mobile and pop-up settings, including clinics in malls, schools, community centres, and in the homes of those who are unable to get out to a clinic.