



MIDDLESEX-LONDON HEALTH UNIT

REPORT NO. 144-12

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Bryna Warshawsky, Acting Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2012 December 13

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**ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH ACTIVITY REPORT –  
NOVEMBER 9 – DECEMBER 5, 2012**

***Recommendation***

***It is recommended that Report No. 144-12 re “Acting Medical Officer of Health Activity Report - November 9 – December 5, 2012” be received for information.***

The following report highlights activities of the Acting Medical Officer of Health from November 9 to December 5, 2012. It is divided into activities related to the role of Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, and activities related to the role of Associate Medical Officer of Health / Director, Oral Health, Communicable Disease and Sexual Health Services.

**Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer**

Considerable time was spent this month responding to the media reports from prior to and following the November 15, 2012 Board of Health meeting. The Acting Medical Officer of Health along with Mr. Dan Flaherty, Communications Manager and the members of the Directors’ Committee wrote a [Vox Pop](#) for publication in the London Free and a series of [Questions and Answers](#) about the shared services review. An information session to assist staff members in understanding the media reports and shared services review was held for members of Finance and Operations, Information Technology, Human Resources, and the Office of the Medical Officer of Health on November 21. A similar session for staff of the entire Health Unit was held on November 28. (see [Report No. 140-12](#)).

The Acting Medical Officer of Health along with Mr. John Millson, Director, Finance and Operations and Mr. Rick Shantz, Director, Information Technology, had their first meeting with representatives from PricewaterhouseCoopers with regard to the Shared Services Review (November 23) (see [Report No. 140-12](#)).

Along with Health Unit Directors, the Acting Medical Officer of Health provided orientation sessions on November 26 and 28 for Mr. Ian Peer, the new provincial appointee to the Board of Health.

The Acting Medical Officer of Health also delivered remarks at the annual Staff Day breakfast on November 29th.

Other activities related to this role have included:

- **Community and Health Unit Events / Meetings:**
  - **Child and Youth Network:** Attended a meeting of Health Unit Managers and Directors to enhance coordination of the Health Unit's involvement in the Child and Youth Network (November 13);
  - **Organizational Health and Vitality Strategic Achievement Group:** Chaired a session of this committee, which consist of Health Unit Directors, to continue work on this element of the Strategic Plan (November 14);
  - **Media launch of Parenting Videos:** Provided opening remarks at the media launch of six new videos to assist parents of teenagers with understanding mental health issues ([London Community News article](#)) (November 16);
  - **London Immigration Partnership:** Attended this meeting with other community agencies to share information on local initiatives to support new immigrants (November 20);
  - **Regional HIV/ AIDS Connection:** Monthly meeting on November 21. The guest speaker was Mr. Ryan Peck, Executive Director of HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario, who presented on the recent supreme court decision with regard to disclosure of HIV status prior to sexual activity;
  - **City of London, Emergency Exercise:** Attended the annual City of London, Emergency Planning exercise with Ms. Pat Simone, Manager, Emergency Preparedness. The exercise focused on preparing for and responding to an ice storm (November 22).

### **Associate Medical Officer of Health / Director, Oral Health, Communicable Disease and Sexual Health**

The work of the Associate Medical Officer of Health centered around the arrival of influenza in the community. The first laboratory-confirmed case of influenza for the 2012-2013 influenza season was received on November 6, 2012. Influenza activity has been increasing since that time. Three Influenza Surveillance Reports were developed. These reports provide information to the community on influenza activity in Middlesex-London. In addition, one media release was issued. The media releases and surveillance reports generated considerable media attention.

The Associate Medical Officer of Health attended a meeting on November 21 with staff members of the Infectious Disease Control Team at the Health Unit to respond to questions regarding influenza outbreak management and has provided ongoing consultation. She also attended an influenza outbreak meeting at London Health Sciences Centre on November 28. Several email communications about influenza and novel coronavirus have been provided to community health care providers. She also assisted in the management of an outbreak of norovirus in a school.

- **Presentations** were provided as follows:
  - **Vaccine Decision Making** – Community Medicine Residents, McMaster University (November 9);
  - **An Update on Important Public Health Issues in Emergency Medicine** - Western University, Emergency Department (November 15);
  - Presentations at the Canadian Immunization Conference (see below).
- **Medical student teaching:** Supervised a fourth year medical student doing a two-week placement at the Health Unit (November 12-23); Presentation to third year medical students on the Role of the Medical Officer of Health (November 21).
- **Immunization Advisory Work:**
  - Attended the Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee – Immunization (PIDAC-I) meeting on November 12;
  - Attended the second meeting of Ontario's Immunization System Review Committee, a committee to provide advice to the Chief Medical Officer of Health on the direction to be taken with regard to Ontario's immunization programs (November 19).

- **Canadian Immunization Conference Planning:** Attended the Canadian Immunization Conference in Vancouver from December 3-5; the Associate Medical Officer of Health was a member of the planning committee which had a final planning meeting before the conference (November 15) and two meetings during the conference. At the conference, she chaired and presented at session entitled "A Guide to the Guide, the Canadian Immunization Guide" (December 3), moderated an electronic poster session (December 4) and participated in the "Ask the Expert" Panel (December 4). Prior to the conference (December 2), she attended a one day educational session in Vancouver hosted by the Canadian Association for Immunization Research and Evaluation (CAIRE) regarding new research on immunization.



Bryna Warshawsky, MDCM, CCFP, FRCPC  
Acting Medical Officer of Health