

# MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS UPDATE FOR PHYSICIANS

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[www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/Leadership/Pages/MHOUpdates.aspx](http://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/Leadership/Pages/MHOUpdates.aspx)

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## **On Demand HIV Test Program**

In partnership with Valley Medical Laboratories (VML), the IH STOPHIV program is pleased to inform you about a new program available in the Okanagan Valley. To enhance the ability for the public to be able to access an HIV test, patients can now self-refer for an HIV test at any VML location.

### **How does the On Demand HIV Test Program work?**

To access a test, an individual can:

- Complete a request form that is available on the [VML website](http://www.valleymedicallaboratories.com) (<http://www.valleymedicallaboratories.com>)
- Walk in to any VML location and ask for a test, or
- Request that a test be added to an existing blood work requisition once they are at the lab.

Before patients receive a test, they will be given some [information](#) to read so that they understand the follow-up process for both a negative and positive test.

LINK: <http://www.valleymedicallaboratories.com/pdf-general/2016-04-15p-On%20Demand%20HIV%20Testing%20Patient%20Information.pdf>

### **Implications for Practice**

Orders will be processed with Medical Health Officer, Dr. Trevor Corneil as the ordering physician, and individuals will be given the opportunity to have results copied to their family doctors. If a test result is positive, follow-up with the individual will be arranged through Interior Health's STOPHIV program. The primary care provider will also be contacted to determine whether the primary care provider wishes to be involved in care.

For more information please contact Maja Karlsson ([maja.karlsson@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:maja.karlsson@interiorhealth.ca) or 250-868-7832)

## **New for BC this fall: Quadrivalent Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine for Grade 9 students**

BC will be introducing quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine into the school-based program starting the September 2016 school year. The current 2015/16 school year is the final year of the grade 6 meningococcal C conjugate vaccine program. This vaccine will be given in grade 9 based on the following key considerations:

- the epidemiology of serogroup Y disease with age distribution that includes higher rates in 15-24 year olds, and late adulthood
- excellent control of serogroup C disease, with no cases in those under 25 years of age in BC since 2008 and reduction across all age groups
- expected high uptake of this vaccine in grade 9, and targeted efforts to reach above 90% vaccine uptake
- limited duration of protection of conjugate vaccines, and need for sustained protection through late adolescence
- highest rates of nasopharyngeal carriage in late adolescence with a peak at age 19 years

## **GetCheckedOnline: a new option for testing for sexually transmitted infections**

People at higher risk of acquiring sexually transmitted infections (STI) face a range of barriers to accessing clinic-based testing. To help meet needs, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) has developed an internet-based STI and HIV testing program called GetCheckedOnline (GCO; [getcheckedonline.com](http://getcheckedonline.com)).

- **Where is GetCheckedOnline available?**

GetCheckedOnline launched in Vancouver in September 2014 following an extensive consultation and development process. The program has now been launched as a pilot in two communities in the Interior Health (IH) region, Kamloops and Nelson, with the intention of future expansion to other communities. Currently, an access code is required in order to create an account on GCO; in IH, access codes are available through the CD Unit, public health units, community agencies and via online channels.

- **How does GetCheckedOnline work?**

This online service offers testing for chlamydia, gonorrhea (urine, throat and rectal swabs), HIV, syphilis and hepatitis C. To test through GCO any individual person, located in Kamloops or Nelson, can create a personal online account in the website using an access code, and then complete a sexual risk assessment questionnaire. Recommended tests and educational messages are tailored based on the answers provided. The individual then prints their laboratory requisition and visits a participating LifeLabs to submit specimens. If all results are negative, they can be viewed online. All positive results are delivered by BCCDC nurses, either over the phone or in person.

- **Implications for practice**

The GetCheckedOnline program remains centrally managed at BCCDC. The Physician Lead for the Provincial STI/HIV Program at BCCDC, Dr. Troy Grennan, is the ordering provider for all GCO clients. Primary responsibility for notification and follow-up of positive diagnoses lies with BCCDC. For patients with a positive result, BCCDC nurses will arrange for treatment through established local referral pathways. Patients may choose to seek treatment with a partner clinic but also have the option of visiting their family physician or other health provider.

- **Confidentiality**

One unique aspect of GetCheckedOnline is the use of an alphanumeric code (e.g. QQ123456) in place of patient name on all laboratory requisitions and results. As a result, there will be patients presenting to clinics for treatment of diagnosed STIs who do not have a corresponding lab result with their name or PHN on it. Patients should be treated the same as STI contacts or individuals presenting with a diagnosed STI with no documentation.

More information about GetCheckedOnline is available through a dedicated “For Health Providers” section on the GCO website ([getcheckedonline.com/healthproviders](http://getcheckedonline.com/healthproviders)). For questions related to clinical aspects of GCO, please contact the STI/HIV Physician Lead at BCCDC (604-707-5606; [troy.grennan@bccdc.ca](mailto:troy.grennan@bccdc.ca)). For questions related to the operation of GCO, please contact the Program Manager at BCCDC (604-707-5626; [devon.haag@bccdc.ca](mailto:devon.haag@bccdc.ca)) or the regional program representative (Maja Karlsson at 250-868-7832 or [maja.karlsson@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:maja.karlsson@interiorhealth.ca)).

## Pearls for Immunization Practice; now available for physicians

This on-line course is a project of the British Columbia Immunization Committee (BCIC) Professional Education Working Group (PEWG). The course targets family physicians and family practice residents but is open to all interested users. The course focuses on providing practical immunization information to assist in the practice setting as well as highlights important immunization resources.

More information on the course is available through the BCCDC website at:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/education-development/immunization-courses/pearls-for-immunization-practice>

Registration for the course can be done on-line at [www.bccdclearning.ca](http://www.bccdclearning.ca)

## Online Learning Module: Trans Rights Toolkit Course Introduction

Did you know that trans and gender diverse people have the legal right to live free from discrimination and harm in British Columbia?

The 'Trans Rights Toolkit' is a spunky 20 minute online learning module developed for health and social service providers to impart practical knowledge in supporting trans and gender diverse clients, colleagues, friends and family members. Check it out on iLearn, [course #1321](#).

Developed by trans-identified service providers, the module playfully presents three common scenarios in which the rights of a trans person are breached, inviting the learner to identify problematic behaviour, intervention techniques, and proactive steps to circumvent future incidents from arising.

The 'Trans Rights Toolkit' e-module is part of the [Trans Rights BC project](#) which offers communities and service providers across BC access to:

- Related human rights information
- Printable rights-based fact sheets
- Educational videos
- BC trans rights activist profiles

This initiative aims to support Health Authority staff across BC in accessing the online learning module. We encourage you to check out this short, timely and poignant module and give the gift of knowledge by sharing the link with your colleagues.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” ~ Helen Keller

## Infection Prevention And Control Newsletter (available only through the internal IH website)

Stay up to date with the Infection Prevention and Control newsletters called Infection Reflections.

The latest edition of Infection Reflections from April 2016 <http://insidenet.interiorhealth.ca/QPS/IPC/Documents/April%202016.pdf> Mosquito Borne Illness

You can also find all previous editions of the newsletter at the bottom of IPAC site (<http://insidenet.interiorhealth.ca/QPS/IPC/Pages/default.aspx>), before “Other Web Resources”