



Health Department Updates for Halton Health Care Providers

January 2015

## Message from the Medical Officer of Health

Happy New Year and thanks for reading this update with important, recent health information. As you know, a new year often brings resolutions; one of the most common is to quit smoking. The first of our quarterly health updates for 2015 provides new tools for health care providers to help smokers quit, as well as information on recent enhancements to publicly-funded immunization programs and new guidelines for treating patients with gonorrhoea. I hope these updates will be useful to you in the everyday care of your patients. Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2015.



**Dr. Hamidah Meghani**  
Medical Officer of Health, Halton Region

## What's new for Halton physicians



### New physician site to help smokers quit: *You Can Make it Happen*

Developed by Public Health Units across Ontario and the Smokers Helpline, the *You Can Make it Happen* website provides tools to help health care professionals help their patients quit smoking. Visit **You Can Make it Happen** for tools to assist you in working with your patients to improve their health. [youcanmakeithappen.ca](http://youcanmakeithappen.ca)



### Enhancements to Ontario's publicly-funded immunization program

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) announced enhancements to Ontario's publicly-funded immunization program including increased eligibility for adult pertussis immunization and expansion to both the high-risk meningococcal and pneumococcal vaccine programs. [Halton.ca/physicians](http://Halton.ca/physicians)



### New guidelines for testing and treatment of gonorrhea

The recommendations for treating patients with gonorrhoea have changed. New guidelines are included in the *Public Health Ontario's Guidelines for Testing and Treatment of Gonorrhoea in Ontario* which provides evidence, rationale and recommendations to effectively diagnose and treat persons infected with gonorrhoea. [Halton.ca/gonorrhoea](http://Halton.ca/gonorrhoea)

