

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: April 5, 2022

RE: Alcohol misuse supports and local addiction medicine webinar on Thursday, April 7

QUICK FACTS

- Halton residents are more likely than Ontario residents to be regular drinkers, have had an alcoholic beverage in the past week, drink heavily, and exceed the Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines.
- Healthcare professionals should routinely ask all patients about substance use and assess their risk level using [alcohol screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment \(SBIRT\) resources](#).
- The Halton Physician Association is hosting an online session to discuss an overview of addiction trends during the pandemic, an introduction to suboxone induction and the addiction services available from local physicians and ADAPT colleagues. [Join your colleagues on Thursday, April 7 from 8-9 p.m. for this Zoom webinar.](#)

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Information on substance misuse, including local resources is available online at halton.ca/physicians.
- Alcohol is one of the global top five risk factors for death and disease and a causal factor in more than 200 disease and injuries, including cancer.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Mentoring, Education and Clinical Tools for Addiction: Partners in Health Integration \(META:PHI\)](#)
- [Alcohol misuse during the COVID-19 pandemic \(Oct 28, 2021\)](#), Halton Region Public Health
- [Alcohol screening and treatment resources](#), Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction
- [Screening for and Managing At-Risk Drinking and Alcohol Use Disorder \(AUD\) During COVID-19](#), Centre for Effective Practice

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.