

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

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

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

FROM: Dr. Patrick Galange, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: May 29, 2025

RE: Register for June 18 Online CME on Sexually Transmitted Infections in Family Practice

QUICK FACTS

- Gonorrhea and syphilis are on the rise in Halton, with 1,522 Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections reported in Halton accounting for 35% of all Diseases of Public Health Significance cases reported to Public Health.
- [Register today for Halton Region Public Health's Mainpro+ accredited CME webinar "Public Health Updates for Halton Physicians: Sexually Transmitted Infections in Family Practice" from 7-8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2025.](#) See attached flyer for more details.
- Following the webinar at 8 p.m., you're invited to stay for a brief update for primary care from the Burlington Ontario Health Team and the Connected Care Halton Ontario Health Team.
- Earlier this year, the preferred treatment for uncomplicated gonococcal infections (e.g., urogenital, rectal and pharyngeal) for patients 10 years of age and older changed to Ceftriaxone 500 mg IM as a single dose (monotherapy) instead of the previous combination therapy.
- To order publicly funded STI medications, please order through [halton.ca](https://www.halton.ca).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR THIS SESSION

- Gain comfort in taking a sexual health history.
- Describe local Sexually Transmitted Infection trends in Halton.
- Follow guidelines for STI testing and treatment in the primary care setting, with an emphasis on chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis.
- Understand how Public Health supports primary care clinics with STI guidance, free medications, clinics, at-home testing and more.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Public Health Updates for Halton Physicians: Sexually Transmitted Infections in Family Practice, Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 7-8 p.m.](#)
- [Canadian STI Guidelines: Gonorrhea](#)
- [Public Health Ontario: Gonorrhea](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) 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.

Public Health Updates for Halton Physicians: Focus on STIs Sexually Transmitted Infections in Family Practice

With gonorrhea and syphilis on the rise, do you know how to test and what to do when your patients' tests come back positive? In 2024, there were 1,522 Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections reported in Halton, accounting for 35% of all Diseases of Public Health Significance cases reported to Public Health. [Come learn clinical tips from a local family physician and medical director of healthy sexuality clinics on how to test and treat STIs in the primary care setting.](#)

Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Time: 7-8p.m.

Register: Online ([registration form](#))



Learning objectives:

Overall series learning objective:

By attending the Public Health Updates for Halton Physicians series, participants will be able to identify and discuss relevant and recent information about approaches to the prevention, diagnosis and management of key public health issues impacting their family practice in both rural and urban settings.

Learning objectives for this session:

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Gain comfort in taking a sexual health history.
- Describe local Sexually Transmitted Infection trends in Halton.
- Follow guidelines for STI testing and treatment in the primary care setting, with an emphasis on chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis.
- Understand how Public Health supports primary care clinics with STI guidance, free medications, clinics, at home testing and more.

Speakers:



Dr. Rachita Gurtu
MD, CCFP

Oakville family physician
Medical Director, Healthy Sexuality
Clinics, Region of Peel Public Health



Dr. Patrick Galange
MD, MBA, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC

Associate Medical Officer of Health
Halton Region Public Health

Submit your questions in advance through the [registration form](#)!