



Message from the Medical Officer of Health

As we start a new year, I want to thank you for everything you do to keep Halton residents safe and healthy throughout the year. Your commitment to your patients is appreciated by the families you support and your community partners including the Halton Region Health Department.

The beginning of 2019 will be busy for all of us as we tackle influenza season. Know the influenza risk in Halton by signing up for our weekly influenza surveillance report. The first few months of 2019 will also be busy ensuring immunization records are up-to-date for students born between 2001 and 2004 and new to this year, students born in 2010. Thank you for all your support.

Wishing you and your family all the best throughout the new year ahead and hoping you have a healthy 2019!



Dr. Hamidah Meghani
Medical Officer of Health, Halton Region

What's new for Halton physicians?



Know the influenza risk in Halton

Sign up to receive the Influenza Surveillance Report by email or find it online at halton.ca. The weekly report provides information on flu activity, age distribution, subtype and emergency department visits in Halton.



Anticipate increased immunization requests in January to April 2019

In January 2019, students born in 2001-2004 (grades 9 to 12) whose immunization records are out-of-date or who are overdue for a mandatory vaccine will receive a school suspension notice in the mail. The suspension period for this cohort starts February 7. **NEW for 2019** – Suspension notices will also be mailed to the 2010 (grade 3) cohort in February. The suspension period for the 2010 cohort starts March 25.



Protect patients from infections with proper reprocessing

When reprocessing medical equipment and devices, the level of reprocessing required is based on the type of patient contact and on the potential risk of infection involved in their use. Please see [this fact sheet](#) for some tips. Visit publichealthontario.ca (browse by topic and select IPAC Lapses: Resources and FAQs for prevention) for more details.



SAVE THE DATE! I look forward to seeing you at this year's Continuing Medical Education event for Halton physicians on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at the Oakville Conference Centre. To register, visit halton.ca or call 311.



halton.ca 311

