

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. Deepika Lobo, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: February 4, 2022

RE: Sexual health supports – providing gender-affirming care, treating syphilis, free STI medications to Halton healthcare providers and clinics

QUICK FACTS

- On February 9 from 8-9 p.m., the Halton Physician Association is hosting a community meeting, [“Gender-Affirming Care in Our Community.” Register online](#) to learn how you can better support your trans, non-binary and gender diverse patients.
- Syphilis case numbers continue to be high across Ontario and patients at risk should be [screened](#). Health care professionals can still access Public Health’s CME on syphilis. The [recording](#) and [presentation slides](#) are online.
- Public Health offers [free STI medications](#) to all Halton Region health care providers and medical clinics for the treatment of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. Free condoms are also available by request. All patients (regardless of OHIP status) diagnosed with a reportable STI, and their partners, are eligible for the following free STI medications:
 - Azithromycin
 - Ceftriaxone
 - Penicillin G Benzathine (Bicillin L-A)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections: Guides for health professionals](#), Public Health Agency of Canada
- [Bacterial STI Testing: Quick Reference](#), Public Health Ontario
- [Ceftriaxone reconstitution guidelines](#), Halton Region Public Health
- [Rainbow Health Ontario](#)
- [Sherbourne’s Guidelines for gender-affirming primary care with trans and non-binary patients](#), Rainbow Health Ontario

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.