

# Communicable Diseases and Infection Control Updates

## What's New

### Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections Updates

The activities included in this section support the implementation of the [Government of Canada's STBBI Action Plan](#).

### Talking About Sexual Health: New Videos

To help normalize conversations around sexual health and encourage STI testing among youth, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has released three new engaging videos:

- [Let's Talk Sexual Health with Dr. Rebecca Chase](#): A candid conversation with a medical expert about why sexual health matters.
- [Morning Routine Plus STI Test? Here's How Easy It Was for Me](#): A day in the life video showing how simple and stress-free integrating STI testing into your day can be.
- [Can We Talk About Bringing Up Sexual Health in a New Relationship?](#): Tips and insights on navigating important conversations with new partners.

These videos aim to reduce stigma, promote awareness, and empower youth to take charge of their sexual health. Watch and share to help spread the message!

### ['HIV in Canada' 2023 Surveillance Report now available](#)

The Executive Summary of the 2023 'HIV in Canada' Surveillance Report was published on Canada.ca in August 2025, and the [full report](#) is now available online.

### [Canada's STBBI response highlighted at the STI & HIV World Congress 2025 in Montréal](#)

At the opening ceremony of the conference, Dr. Howard Njoo, Interim Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO), delivered opening remarks focused on the renewed STBBI Action Plan, equity and human rights and the importance of international collaboration. PHAC and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) co-hosted a symposium on community-based responses to emerging and re-emerging infections, including syphilis and mpox. Co-moderated by Dr. Njoo and Dr. Charu Prematunge, Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity, the session featured experts Keith

McCrary, Dr. Notisha Massaquoi, Dr. Sahar Saeed, and Alexandre Dumont Blais, with closing remarks by Tanguy Hedrich from COCQ-SIDA. The discussion explored innovative, culturally relevant approaches to community-based research, underscored the key role of communities in the success of STBBI programs and highlighted how lessons from the Canadian context can inform responses in diverse global settings.

### **Updated Guidance on Imvamune for Mpox Prevention**

On May 15, 2025, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) released [updated guidance on the use of the Imvamune vaccine to prevent mpox](#) in response to emerging global epidemiological trends, including the emergence of clade I mpox viruses and recent effectiveness data. A companion [webpage](#) summarizing the changes, helps readers to easily review the new and updated recommendations. The [Smallpox and Mpox Vaccines chapter of the Canadian Immunization Guide](#) has also been updated to align with this guidance.

### **[Molecular detection and isolation of clade Ib monkeypox virus, Canada, November 2024](#)**

In November 2024, a case of clade Ib mpox was confirmed in Canada. This [article](#), published in June 2025, describes the events that led to laboratory confirmation of the virus as well as the coordinated local, provincial, and federal public health response.

## **Tuberculosis Updates**

### **New Tuberculosis (TB) Awareness Resources**

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has released two new resources to help raise awareness about TB:

- [Think TB: For Communities](#): A one-page factsheet that provides community members with an overview of TB.
- [Think TB: For Health Professionals](#): A poster that shares key messages tailored to health professionals. An editable version of this poster is also available, which features customizable sections where local contact information and branding can be added.

These new tools complement PHAC's existing TB resources and are available on the [PHAC Training Portal](#). We encourage anyone interested to explore and share these materials.

## **Antimicrobial Resistance Updates**

### **[Updated list of Canada's priority antimicrobial-resistant pathogens](#)**

The Public Health Agency of Canada is pleased to share an updated list of pathogens that pose a risk to people in Canada due to antimicrobial resistance.

This study updates the 2015 AMR Priority Pathogen list using a rigorous multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) framework. Pathogens were ranked in tiers based on nine weighted criteria that align with global best practices but were **tailored to Canadian priorities**. Notably, **Canada is the first country to include health equity** in such an exercise, reflecting a strong commitment to addressing disparities in AMR impact. The resulting 2025 AMR Priority Pathogen list highlights Canada's leadership in evidence-based surveillance and provides a robust foundation for guiding national and international AMR actions.

Read the full publication: [Canada's 2025 AMR priority pathogens: Evidence-based ranking and public health implications](#)

### [New Initiative Strengthens Infection Surveillance in Long-Term Care Homes Across Canada](#)

The Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP) have launched an exciting new initiative to improve national monitoring of infections, antimicrobial resistance, and antimicrobial use in long-term care homes (LTCHs).

This collaborative project brings together 15+ multidisciplinary experts from across the country to help shape a stronger, more coordinated approach to surveillance in LTCH settings.

What's been achieved so far: Canada-wide survey published in the Journal of the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada:

- Over 770 LTCHs took part—representing about 37% of all homes nationwide.
- Strong infection prevention presence: 92% reported having a designated infection prevention and control (IPAC) lead.
- Active surveillance underway: 91% of homes tracked at least one type of infection—most often urinary tract infections (79%), *Clostridioides difficile* infections (75%), and gastroenteritis (75%).
- Antimicrobial use monitoring: 63% of homes monitored antibiotic use, while 52% screened residents for antimicrobial-resistant organisms on admission.

Building on these findings and expert input, the team has developed a standardized surveillance protocol covering case definitions, symptom tracking, data collection, and reporting. A pilot phase is now underway in 1 LTCH with plans to expand to 10 LTCHs across Canada to test the protocol and assess feasibility.

These efforts will help lay the groundwork for a national surveillance framework tailored to the LTCH context—supporting better data, stronger infection control, and healthier communities for residents and staff.

## What's Coming

### [WEBINAR: Antimicrobial Prescribing Practices in Canadian Hospitals: Insights & Future Directions](#)

**Monday, November 17th, 1:00 - 2:00 PM ET**

Antimicrobial resistance is a serious and growing public health threat. Optimizing antimicrobial use in hospitals is critical to slowing the spread of resistant organisms. To tackle this issue, we must look beyond how much antibiotics are being prescribed and take a closer look at prescribing behaviours.

Register now to hear from key experts at the Public Health Agency of Canada and the University Health Network about the Canadian National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (NAPS), which provides insights in prescribing practices for antimicrobials in Canadian hospitals. Speakers will discuss the importance of the NAPS data in informing prescribing behaviours, how it can be used to identify opportunities for practice change, and future directions for understanding antimicrobial prescribing practices in hospitals.

### [WEBINAR: Supporting TB Care in First Nations, Inuit and Northern Communities](#)

**Tuesday, November 25th, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM ET**

Join us for a webinar discussing the social realities of TB and the importance of a culturally responsive approach to TB care. The first hour of the webinar will focus on TB in First Nations communities, while the second hour will be dedicated to TB in Inuit communities. Each segment will offer practical insights on the socioeconomic factors shaping TB and provide strategies for health and social service providers to enhance their practices through cultural safety, competence & humility. Key efforts for advancing the TB response will also be discussed through an interactive Q&A.

To lay the groundwork for a focused and impactful webinar, all attendees are kindly requested to review [Chapter 12 of the Canadian TB standards](#) which provides an introductory guide to tuberculosis care to improve cultural competence for health care workers and public health professionals serving Indigenous Peoples of Canada.

## Stay Connected

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