

# 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](#).

#### **World AIDS Day**

December 1 marked World AIDS Day and the start of Indigenous AIDS Awareness Week, under the theme “Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response.” This day underscores the importance of continued efforts to end HIV and support affected communities. The Minister of Health and the Minister of Indigenous Services [shared a message](#) to commemorate the day, and participated in a number of local community-led activities.

Building on these efforts, PHAC collaborated with SIECCAN and Capital Rainbow Refuge to host a webinar on December 4 titled “Tailoring sexual health information for newcomers in Canada.” The session showcased innovative approaches from organizations leading the efforts in making sexual health resources culturally relevant, inclusive, and accessible to newcomers to Canada.

#### **New Guidance for Health Professionals Available**

The Public Health Agency of Canada has published two new sets of recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections (NAC-STBBI) for the prevention and control of STBBI in Canada.

[Recommendations on the use of Doxy-PEP](#): outlines new recommendations for health care professionals on the use of doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis (Doxy-PEP) to prevent certain bacterial sexually transmitted infections (chlamydia, gonorrhoea, and syphilis) in cisgender gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) and transgender women (TGW).

Summary recommendations:

- Consider off-label use of Doxy-PEP for cisgender GBMSM and TGW at increased risk of bacterial STI to prevent syphilis, chlamydia, and possibly gonorrhoea.

- Discuss the potential antimicrobial resistance (AMR) risks with patients considering Doxy-PEP use.

[Screening Recommendations for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea](#): provides updated recommendations on screening for *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (NG) for non-pregnant adults/adolescents. CT and NG are among the most frequently reported bacterial sexually transmitted infections in Canada, and rates have been steadily increasing over the last decade. These infections are often asymptomatic, making them difficult to control, and if left untreated, they may lead to serious complications.

Summary Recommendations:

- The NAC-STBBI suggests universal annual screening for CT and NG in all sexually active individuals under 30 years of age.
- The NAC-STBBI suggests screening every 3–6 months for CT and NG in all persons with multiple sexual partners or a new partner since last tested.
- The NAC-STBBI suggests “opt-out” screening for CT and NG as frequently as every 3 months in populations or communities experiencing high prevalence of CT and NG infections (and other STBBI).

#### [HIV in Canada – Surveillance Highlights 2024 now available](#)

The annual HIV Surveillance update ‘HIV in Canada - Surveillance Highlights’ for 2024 is now available on Canada.ca.

- There were 1,826 new HIV diagnoses for 2024 (excludes Quebec)
- The national HIV new diagnosis rate was 5.7 per 100,000 people in 2024 (excludes Quebec)

This HIV Surveillance Highlights web page will be updated with the new information each year, and also when all the information is received from the provinces and territories.

#### **New Data: Estimating the population size of people who inject drugs in Canada, 2021**

A newly published study provides updated estimates of how many people in Canada have ever injected drugs, as well as how many did so recently (in the past 12 months). As people who inject drugs are disproportionately affected by HIV and hepatitis C, these estimates are essential for helping public health officials track trends and design better programs to prevent infections and support affected communities.

Explore the findings through two new publications:

1. [Scientific manuscript published in CDR](#)
2. [Plain language summary available on the CATIE blog](#)

## **Antimicrobial Resistance Updates**

## [Release of the 2025 Canadian Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System \(CARSS\)](#)

### [Key Findings](#)

The Canadian Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (CARSS) serves as Canada's focal point for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antimicrobial use (AMU) surveillance. By drawing on evidence and trends from PHAC and partners across human and animal health sectors, CARSS provides relevant, timely, accurate, and comprehensive information to support research, policy development and public health action. The [2025 Key Findings](#) offer Canadians an accessible overview of the most recent AMR and AMU trends in the country.

This year's Key Findings highlight [Canada's 2025 Updated List of Priority Pathogens](#), results from equity-informed surveillance, and notable national trend summaries. Rising rates among several priority AMR pathogens underscore the need for continued investment, cross-sector collaboration, and ongoing innovation to safeguard treatment options, protect vulnerable populations, and maintain Canada's leadership in the global response to AMR.

### [New Resource: Canadian Antibiotic Treatment Guidance](#)

The Public Health Agency of Canada is pleased to announce the launch of the [Canadian Antibiotic Treatment Guidance](#) — a key milestone under the [Pan-Canadian Action Plan on AMR \(2023–2027\)](#).

The Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Canada (AMMI) and Firstline® received funding from PHAC to develop national antimicrobial prescribing guidelines for the empiric treatment of common infectious syndromes, and make them **accessible at point-of-care** through the Firstline® digital platform. These guidelines strengthen Canada's stewardship efforts by supporting evidence-based antibiotic prescribing — an essential step to ensure antimicrobials are used judiciously and that prescribers have the resources they need to support appropriate antimicrobial use.

## What's Coming

### [Join the Communicable Disease and Infection Control Webinar mailing list](#)

PHAC leads the Communicable Disease and Infection Control (CDIC) Webinar Series, which showcases projects, publications, epidemiological data, community organizations and more. It's attended by government representatives, public health professionals, community-based organizations, community members, health care professionals, academics and researchers. If you are interested in registering for these webinars, please contact [cdc.webinars-webinaires.lmti@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:cdc.webinars-webinaires.lmti@phac-aspc.gc.ca)

## **Stay Connected**

**NEW!** View previous CDIC Updates: [A repository of past issues is available for download from the PHAC Training Portal](#)

Facebook: [Healthy Canadians](#)

X: [Health Canada and PHAC](#)

YouTube: [Healthy Canadians](#)

---

Questions, comments, or concerns? Contact us at [ccdic.knowledge.mobilization-clmti.mobilisation.connaissances@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:ccdic.knowledge.mobilization-clmti.mobilisation.connaissances@phac-aspc.gc.ca)

---

## **Cancelling your subscription**

To change or cancel your subscription at any time, please visit the [Communicable Diseases and Infection Control Updates](#) web page.