

# 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](#).

#### **[New blog post available: Exploring new recommendations for Doxy-PEP](#)**

PHAC has authored a guest blog post for CATIE, exploring Canada's recently published recommendations on doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis (Doxy-PEP) for the prevention of certain bacterial sexually transmitted infections (STIs). It outlines key recommendations for health professionals, including who may benefit most and the importance of discussing potential risks such as antibiotic resistance.

Read the full blog post to learn more about how Doxy-PEP helps create a more resilient and comprehensive response to STIs in Canada.

#### **[Risk of HIV transmission at variable suppressed viral loads](#)**

Researchers at PHAC recently published a [new systematic review](#) in AIDS and Behavior on the effects of different levels of viral suppression on the risk of sexual HIV transmission among serodiscordant couples (one partner is living with HIV and the other is HIV-negative), when the partner living with HIV is on antiretroviral therapy. This review provides updated evidence to inform prevention efforts, including policy and program activities related to Undetectable=Untransmissible.

This work builds on earlier PHAC research that examined the [risk of transmission](#) when the partner living with HIV maintained a suppressed viral load of 200 copies/ml or less.

### **Recent Webinar: Sexual Health (Mis)information in the Age of AI**

In recognition of Sexual Health Week 2026, PHAC hosted a webinar in collaboration with Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights, the Canadian Medical Association, and Toronto Public Health that examined how people access sexual health information online. Presenters examined the growing impact of misinformation, and how providers, community, and decision-makers can enhance sexual health education as AI tools evolve.

If you would like to be notified of future webinars, please contact [cdic.webinars-webinaires.lmti@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:cdic.webinars-webinaires.lmti@phac-aspc.gc.ca) to join the mailing list.

## **Tuberculosis Updates**

### **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day**

March 24th marks World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, under the theme “ Yes! We Can End TB.” PHAC is pleased to share information, resources and upcoming events to raise awareness and support action to address TB in Canada.

### **2024 National TB Disease Surveillance Data Update**

Annual surveillance data for 2024 is now available on a new interactive dashboard.

Highlights include:

- 2,508 people were diagnosed in 2024 with TB disease in Canada corresponding to an incidence rate of 6.1 cases per 100,000 people.
- TB disease continues to be disproportionately distributed among Inuit, First Nations, and persons born outside of Canada.
- TB drug resistance patterns in Canada are also highlighted. Overall, TB drug resistance remained low, consistent with trends observed in the past decade.

### **Webinar: Supporting TB Care in First Nations Communities**

Join us on March 23rd at 1:00 PM ET for Part 1 of a two part series on the social realities of TB. This session explores key socioeconomic factors and strategies for culturally responsive care, focusing on TB in First Nations communities. Part 2, centred on Inuit communities, will follow in the coming months.

### **TB Resources**

The following resources are available to help you raise awareness about TB in your community

- [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.
- [Think TB. Test TB. Video primer for health professionals](#): A video that provides information for health professionals on the signs, symptoms and risk factors for TB.

## Antimicrobial Resistance Updates

### [New Framework for Environmental Surveillance of AMR](#)

PHAC has released the Environmental Surveillance Strategic Framework for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) – a key step in implementing the Pan Canadian Action Plan on AMR. Recognized by the World Health Organization as a major global public health threat, AMR can be present in, and transmitted through environmental pathways including water, soil, and air. These pathways create opportunities for people, animals, plants, and crops to be exposed to resistant organisms.

The framework outlines how environmental monitoring can help detect and better understand AMR in the environment and provides guiding principles and strategic actions to strengthen Canada's One Health approach. It also sets out how PHAC can lead national efforts to acquire and integrate environmental AMR surveillance data to identify trends, drivers, and transmission routes across One Health sectors, and help inform interventions to address AMR.

## What's Coming

### Update on Tracks Surveys

Canada's Enhanced Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infection (STBBI) Surveillance Program, commonly referred to as 'Tracks', conducts biobehavioural surveys (questionnaire and biological sample) to monitor the prevalence of HIV, hepatitis C and other STBBI, and associated factors, among key populations in Canada. These populations include Indigenous Peoples, sexual and gender minorities, people who inject drugs (PWID), and Black people. From 2023 to 2025, two surveys were completed and one was initiated.

1. Phase 3 of the Tracks survey among Two-Spirit people, gay, bisexual, queer and trans men, and non-binary people (2S/GBTQ+)
  - Recruited 4,880 participants during 43 Pride and community events in 19 cities across Canada during the summer of 2024.
  - Preliminary findings were presented at the 2025 Canadian Association of HIV Research conference and the 2025 STI & HIV World Congress.
  - A manuscript and an infographic have been submitted for publication.
2. Phase 5 of the Tracks survey among PWID
  - Recruited 2,308 participants from 13 sentinel sites across 7 provinces and 1 territory from December 2023 to May 2025.
  - Data analysis and knowledge production are underway.
  - [Preliminary data](#) is available.

3. Phase 2 of the Tracks survey among Black people
  - Recruited 273 participants in Alberta (Edmonton and Calgary) in collaboration with Ribbon Rouge, a Black-led community organization focused on HIV, and Concordia University of Alberta. Data was collected between September and December 2025.
  - Data collection in Ontario (Toronto and Ottawa) is planned to start in March 2026. The survey is co-led with Women's Health in Women's Hands, McMaster University and Public Health Ontario.
  - Planning for data collection in Quebec is ongoing.

### **Stay Connected**

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