

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

An Introduction to our Services in the Community
March 31, 2023



simcoe
muskoka
DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

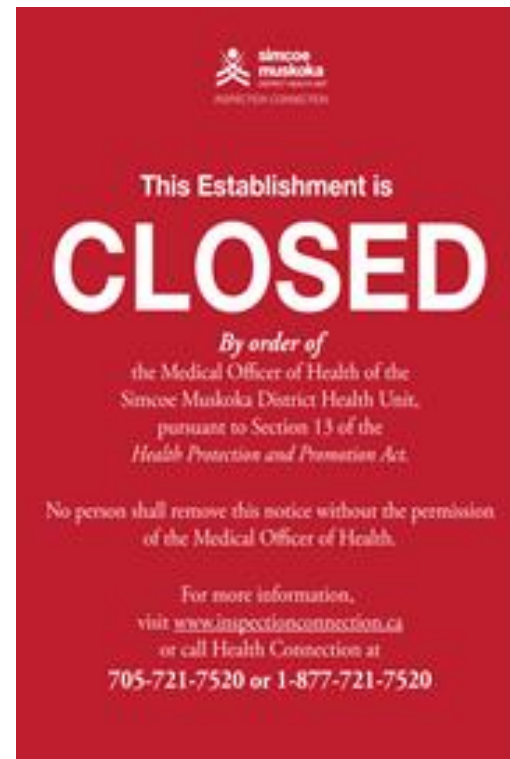
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Food Safety
- Safe Water
- Healthy Environments
- Vector-Borne & Zoonotic Diseases
- Recreational Camps
- Climate Change & Health
- Built Environment
- Emergency Management & Rabies
- Smoke-Free program and the Central East Tobacco Control Area Network



FOOD SAFETY

- Food recalls – OMAFRA, CFIA, MOHLTC
- Outbreak investigations
 - Food sampling and lab analysis
- Food Safety Education – food handler training program
- Special events and mass gatherings
 - Typically seasonal in nature
 - Burls creek, Mariposa festival, Kempenfest, Ontario Butter Tart Festival (Midland), Bala Cranberry Festival
- Inspection Disclosure
 - Routine, follow-up, complaints and enforcement
 - www.inspectionconnection.ca



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HEALTHY MENU CHOICES ACT

- Inspection – focused efforts for franchises in Ontario in 2017
- Enforcement of Legislation
 - Menu Labelling Regulation
- On-going: new premises and identified chains (>20 franchises in Ontario)
- Complaint-based
- Contextual statement
 - *Adults and youth (ages 13 and older) need an average of 2000 calories a day, and children (ages 4 to 12) need an average of 1500 calories a day. However, individual needs may vary.*
- Calories posted on food displays, menus and promotions



Item	Calories
Hot Cakes	450
Hot Cakes	600
Big Breakfast	580
Deluxe Breakfast	660



SAFE WATER PROGRAM

- Ontario Regulation 319 – Small Drinking Water Systems
 - Inspect and monitor for sampling compliance
 - E.g., seasonal trailer parks, motels/hotels, other public facilities
- Regulation 170 systems (typically larger municipal systems)
- Adverse Water Quality Incidents
 - Investigate and respond 24/7
 - Co-regulate municipal water systems and designated facilities
 - Includes schools, childcare facilities, rec camps, homes for special care
- Private Residential Wells
 - Facilitate drinking water testing (public)
 - Interpret results and provide education



SAFE WATER PROGRAM

- Inspect recreational water facilities
 - > 375 recreational water facilities (pools, spas, wading pools, splash pads)
- Monitor Public Beaches
 - > than 80 public beaches monitored in 2022
- Disclosure
 - Small Drinking Water Systems
 - Recreational water facilities (pools, spas, splash pads)
 - Beaches
 - Enforcement actions

SAFE WATER PROGRAM



- Seasonal demands
 - Inspections
 - AWQI response
 - Beaches
 - Public inquiries (Health Connection)
- Blue Green Algae Response
 - Collaborate with MECP
 - Drinking water advisories
 - Recreational water advisories
- Participation + Partnerships
 - Source Water Protection
 - Conservation Authorities
 - Muskoka Watershed Council



HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

Health Hazards Prevention & Management

- Investigate incidents using a risk assessment approach to determine potential public health impacts
 - Chemical spills, environmental contaminants
 - Environmental contamination and remediation
 - Indoor air quality and mould
 - Recent examples – historic waste sites, asbestos in schools
- Respond to and initiate complaint investigations within 24-hours
- Public education (e.g. radon awareness month)
- Inspections of the following facilities:
 - Ice arenas, seasonal farm worker's accommodations, group homes, homes for special care, funeral homes

VECTOR-BORNE & ZOOBOTIC DISEASES



Prevention and Management of Vector-Borne Diseases

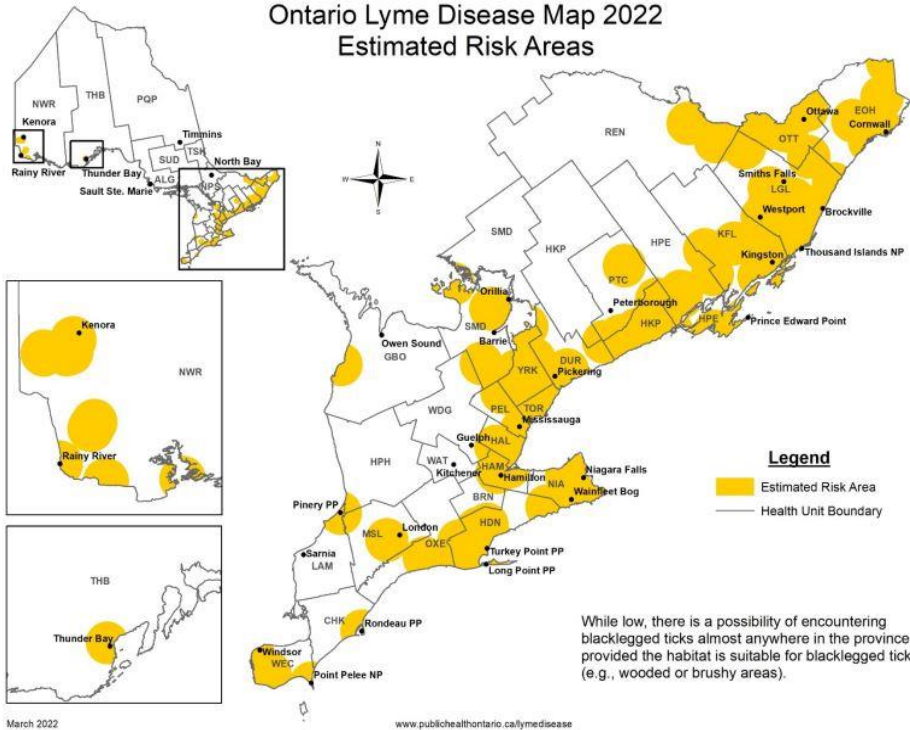
- West Nile Virus
 - Surveillance activities (i.e., trapping and larvae dipping), education & awareness, mosquito control, partnerships with municipalities
 - Larviciding – conducted by municipalities via MOH directive
- Lyme Disease
 - Surveillance (active [i.e., tick dragging] & passive [i.e., eTick])
 - Education & awareness
 - Clinical and physician communication, provincial liaison (e.g., Public Health Ontario)
 - Risk area designation in conjunction with Public Health Ontario



Prevention and Management of Zoonotic Diseases

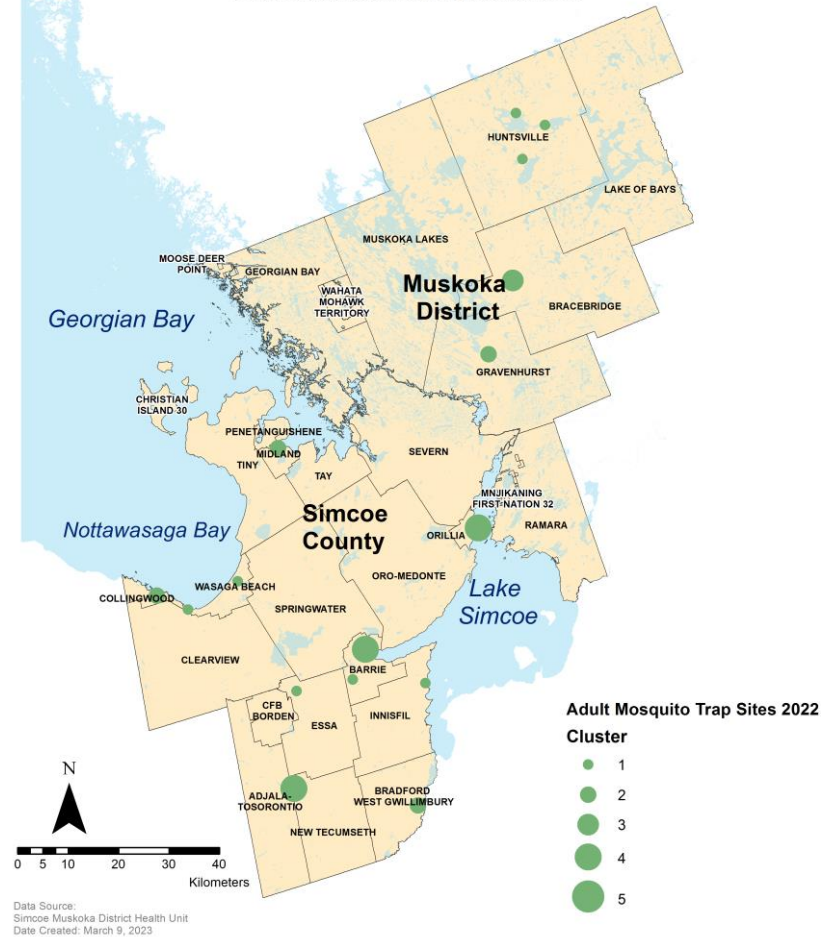
- Reportable zoonotic diseases (via veterinarians or laboratories)
 - Avian Chlamydiosis
 - Avian Influenza
 - Novel Influenza
 - Echinococcus Multilocularis

Ontario Lyme Disease Map 2022 Estimated Risk Areas



Lyme Disease Estimated Risk Areas Map 2022

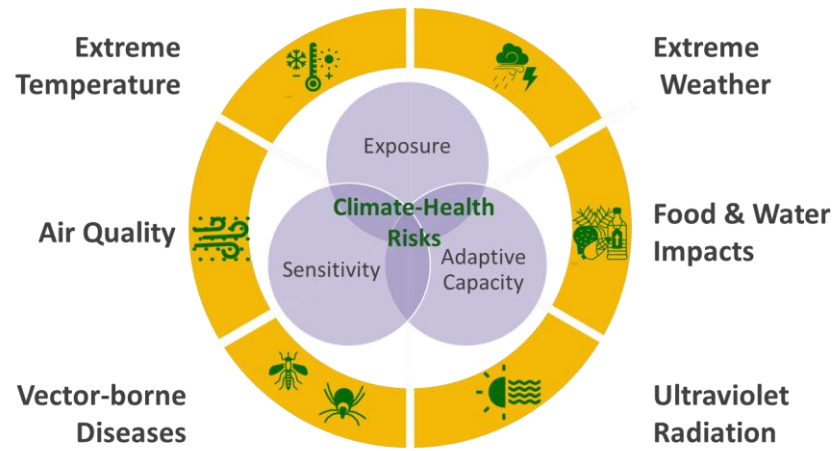
West Nile Virus Adult Mosquito Trapping Sites 2022 Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit



RECREATIONAL CAMPS

- Approximately 55 in SMDHU
- Regulatory responsibilities
 - Camp safety plan
 - Recreational water safety and equipment
 - Drinking water supply
 - Accommodations
 - Animals
 - rabies
 - Food safety
 - Pest control
 - Sanitation Facilities
- Disclosure
 - Inspections
 - Enforcement, if applicable





CLIMATE CHANGE & HEALTH

Foundational Activities

- Strategic agency priority (2012-2016)
- Agency-wide action plan & theory of change
- Climate change & health vulnerability assessment (2017)

Ongoing Activities & Future Direction

- Climate-health work now embedded into operational planning (HE-VBD team)
- Framework outlining SMDHU's role to support goals & objectives.
- Progressively embedding climate-health lens
 - Examples:
 - Surveillance & monitoring (HealthSTATS, RRFSS)
 - Lyme disease awareness campaign
 - Inform municipal climate action plans & strategies
 - Climate Change Exchange
 - Hybrid & EV vehicles
 - Advocacy



In Public Health Practice

In Climate Action

In Strengthening Public Health Systems

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Promote healthy community design policy statements into official plans and other municipal policies.
- Engage communities to assess and evaluate community design to maximize health co-benefits.
- Support the preservation of green and blue spaces.



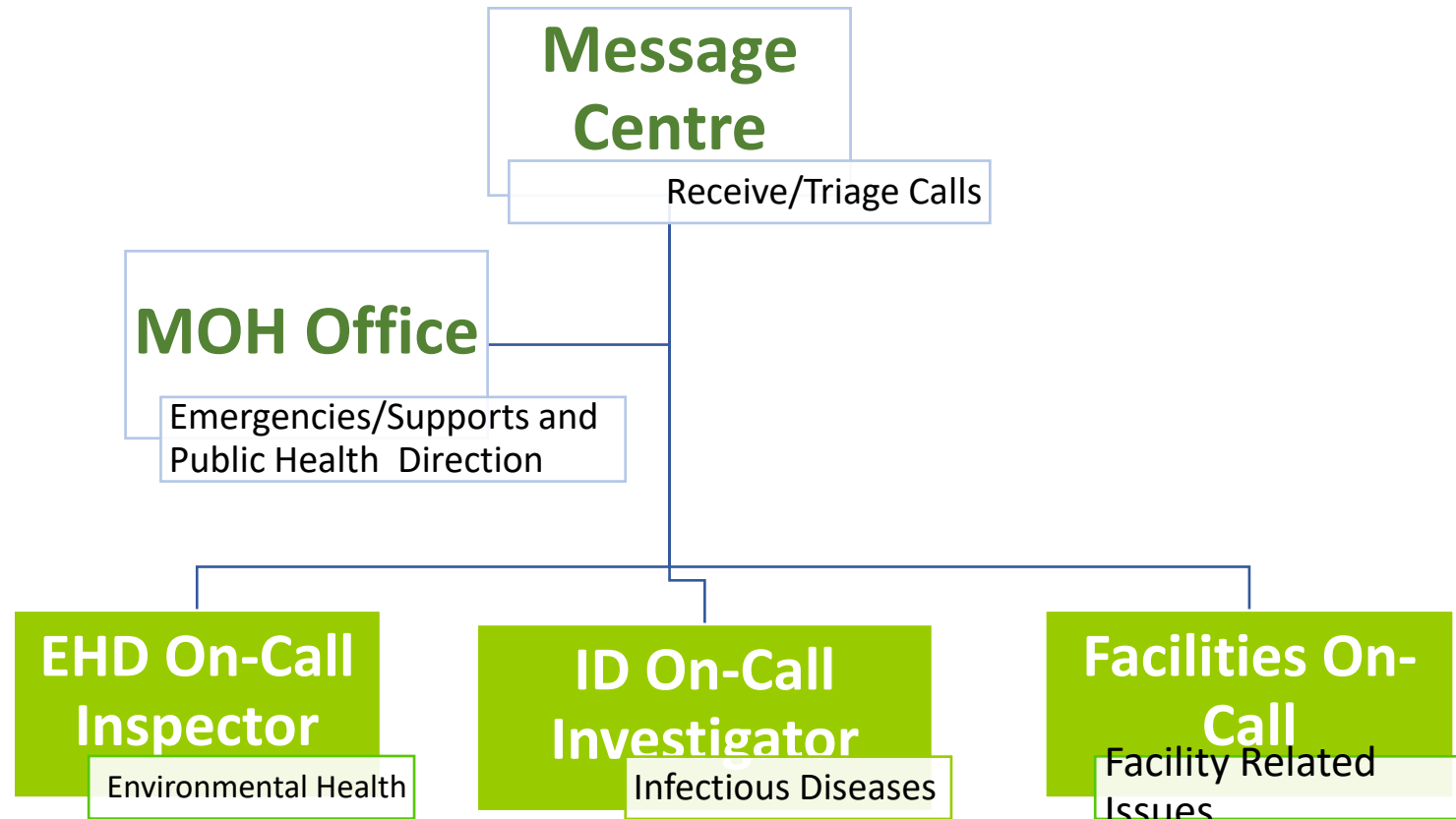
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Communication and Notification Systems

SMDHU After-hours On-Call System



HAZARD & VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

Most likely types of hazards within Simcoe Muskoka that can lead to health-related emergencies

- Infectious Diseases
- Food Related Hazards
- Zoonotic/ Vector Borne Diseases
- Environmental/ Weather Related (e.g. winter/summer storms , extreme heat, tornadoes,
- Water Related Hazards (Low pressure, flooding, contamination of water supply)
- Hazardous Material/Chemical Spill or Explosion Incidents (spills, leaks, fires)
- Technological/Critical Infrastructure Failures (Power/utility outages)
- Injury Related (e.g., Opioid Overdoses)
- Bioterrorist Events (Biological Agents Only)
- Mass Gatherings

When an Emergency Strikes Public Health Responds

Are you Prepared?

- Know the risks in your area**
 - Floods
 - Power outages
 - Winter storms
 - Extreme weather
 - Tornadoes
- Make a plan**
 - At Home
 - At Work
 - For the Children
 - For Pets
 - For those with special needs
- Get a kit**
 - Water
 - Food
 - First aid kit
 - Flashlights
 - Wind-up or battery powered radio

Food Safety **Extreme Weather Response**
Mass Immunizations **Health Hazard Prevention**
Communicable Disease Control **Personal Preparedness**
Chemical Fires **Safe Water** **Evacuation Shelters**

simcoe muskoka
DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

SIMCOE MUSKOKA HOME TO MASS GATHERING EVENTS

THIS SUMMER! PRODUCED BY REPUBLIC 375

BOOTS AND HEARTS

MUSIC FESTIVAL

AUGUST 10TH - 12TH

FEATURING **TIM MCGRAW**
KID ROCK
CARRIE UNDERWOOD
ALABAMA • **PAUL BRANDT**
KEVIN COSTNER & MODERN WEST
BIG & RICH • **LAUREN ALAINA**
JASON MCCOY • DALLAS SMITH • HIGH VALLEY • CANAAN SMITH
WITH MANY MORE COMING SOON

★★★★ TICKETS ON SALE NOW! BOOTSANDHEARTS.COM



WAYHOMETM
MUSIC & ARTS

MUSKOKA 2010
G8
CANADA

INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH & RURAL EXPO

IVY, ONTARIO

Good Old Days . . .
Modern New Ways

SEPTEMBER 16-20, 2014 plowingmatch.org

HOSTING PARTNERS: SIMCOE, MUSKOKA, SIMCOE COUNTY
PRESENTING PARTNERS: hydro ONE, BMO, ontario.muskoka
PLATINUM PARTNERS: RAM, Home, Ontario, FOODLAND



TORONTO 2015
Pan Am/Parapan Am

Emergency Planning with Health System Partners:

- Increase understanding of system risks and opportunities
- Align resources & supports
 - leveraging capabilities and expertise within the health system
- Strengthen networks
 - information sharing & problem solving
- Enhance surge capacity
- Nurture continuous learning
 - specialized functions and resources



READY & RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEM

Accountability for on-going
resilience & readiness

RABIES

Rabies Prevention & Control Investigations

Animal Exposure Reporting and Investigations (1500 +/-year)

Animal Health Assessments

Issue Confinement Orders

Animal Vaccinations to Control Rabies

Low-Cost Rabies Clinics

Rabies Education & Awareness



Protect Your Pet!

Low-cost RABIES CLINICS
For pets 3 months and older.

Annual low-cost rabies clinics are now available across Simcoe County for dogs and cats over three months old. Costs are per animal and **ONLY CASH** will be accepted.

No appointment is necessary to attend the walk-in rabies clinics. A one-year vaccine is available and previously vaccinated pets may be able to receive a three-year booster. You must bring your pet's vaccination records to see if your pet qualifies for the three-year vaccine.

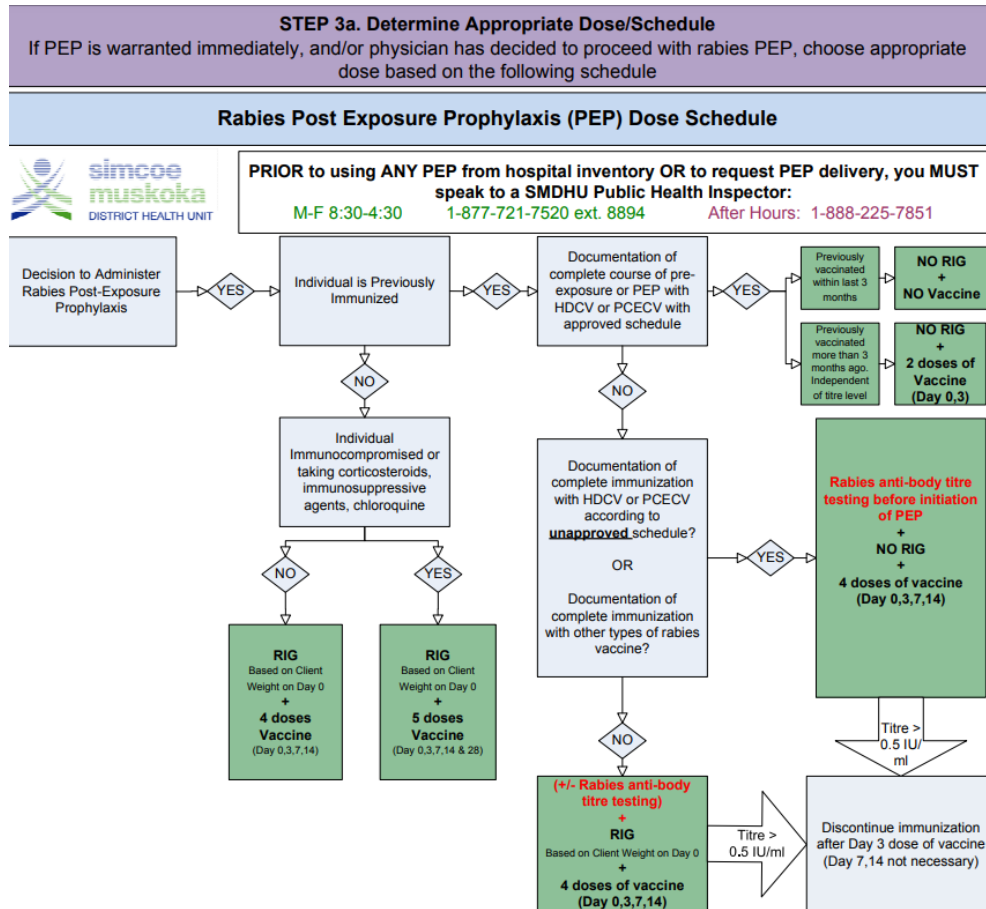
For more information about rabies and these clinics, visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's website at smdhu.org/RabiesClinics.

When attending a clinic:

- Dogs must be leashed and cats in carriers.
- Do not attend a clinic if you are ill.
- Practice physical distancing by staying 2 metres away from others.
- Wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub immediately before and after visiting clinic.

Sunday, Sept. 25 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Pyne Hills Veterinary Hospital 99 Queen St. S., Tottenham Cost: 1-year and 3-year \$30 HST Incl.	Sunday, Oct. 16 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Oro-Medonte Veterinary Services 96 School House Rd., Oro-Medonte Cost: 1-year - \$30 3-year - \$50	
Saturday, Oct. 15 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Holly Animal Hospital 494 Veterans Dr., Suite 21, Barrie Cost: 1-year and 3-year \$30 HST Incl. (exact change required)	Saturday, Oct. 22 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. Thornton Animal Clinic 4171 Innisfil Beach Road, Unit 12 Cost: 1-year and 3-year \$25 HST Incl.	Saturday, Oct. 29 9 a.m. – Noon Penetanguishene Veterinary Hospital 5 Robert St. W., Penetanguishene Cost: 1-year - \$25 3-year - \$30

RABIES: CASE MANAGEMENT



Seek Medical Advice Letters

- Issued to individuals with suspected potential rabies exposure

HCP Consultations and rPEP release

- Assessments in consultation with HCP's and MOH office
- Packaging and delivery of rabies immunoglobulin and vaccine (rPEP)
- Coordination of rPEP for administration and completion of series

Vaccine Inventory Management

- rPEP inventory management within public health and hospital settings

RABIES PREVENTION & CONTROL PROGRAM

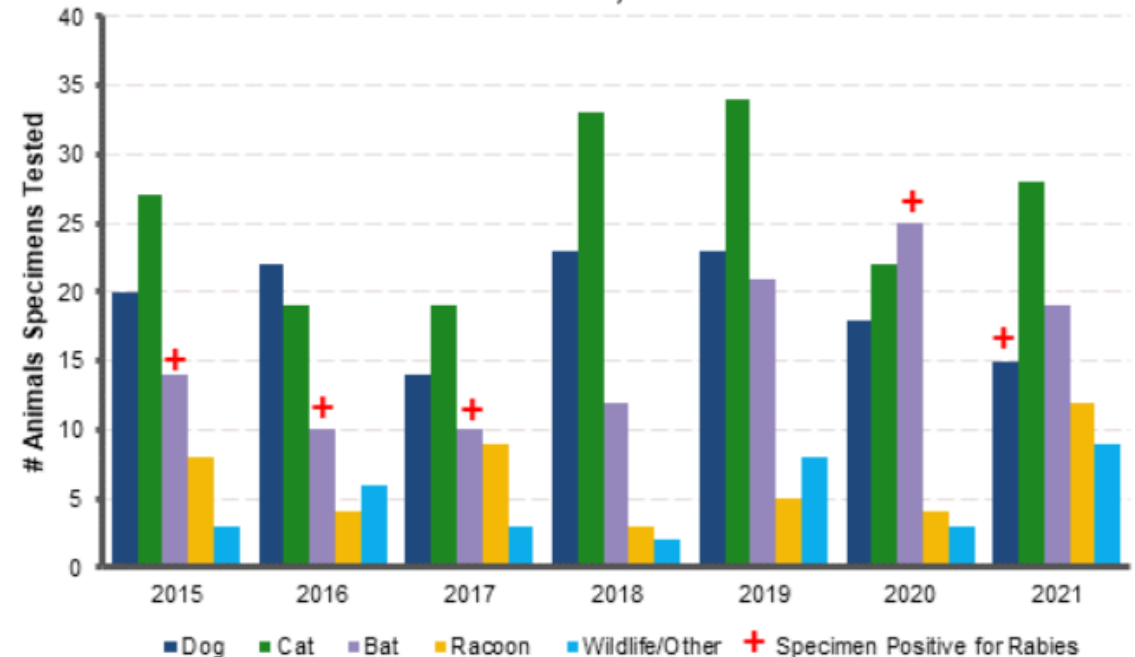
Animal Testing & Surveillance

- Died/suspected of having rabies (symptomology)
- Facilitate euthanasia, specimen pick-up and delivery to lab
- Interpret and communicate results

New & Emerging Issues

- Animal importation from high-risk areas

Animals Specimens Submitted for Rabies Testing by Animal Type, Simcoe Muskoka, 2015-2021



Data Source: SMDHU Rabies Program Files, 2015-2021. Date extracted: April 25, 2022.
2017 Positive specimen was reported to SMDHU by OMAFRA.

SMOKE-FREE PROGRAM



- **Introducing the Smoke-Free Program-Health Promotion Team**
- The Smoke-Free Program's Health Promotion team consists of public health nurses, along with a youth engagement advisor, health promotion specialist and program assistant with leadership from Cindy Baker-Barill (program manager).
- Our team name has shifted away from "Tobacco-Free Program" and is now the "Smoke-Free Program".
- This change was to ensure our team name didn't inadvertently appear to refer to the traditional and/or sacred tobacco used for ceremonial purposes by First Nation, Metis and Inuit communities.
- For the same purpose, when we refer to tobacco industry products such as cigarettes, chewing tobacco etc., we use the term "commercial tobacco".
- As staff gradually returned to Smoke-Free Program roles over 2022, activities have focused on key priorities.
- **Youth Vaping: How We Can Help**
- Many teens and young adults understand the dangers of smoking and among youth, smoking is at an all time low.
- However, despite this, vapour products (like e-cigarettes) are still addicting young people to nicotine.
- In Simcoe Muskoka, 32% of students in grades seven to 12 reported using an e-cigarette in the past year, with this number jumping to 43% when we look at only high school students (OSDUHS, 2019).
- To address the need for interventions and resources to respond to requests related to vaping, the Smoke-Free Program created the *Not An Experiment* initiative.
- Not An Experiment is a comprehensive health promotion program that aims to prevent the initiation and escalation of vaping among youth in grades seven to 12.
- Most of the activities and resources contained within Not An Experiment are available from [NotAnExperiment.ca](https://www.notanexperiment.ca), which is also full of interactive elements designed to engage youth.
 - The website also highlights vaping cessation supports designed specifically for youth, and a page for parents and other caregivers to support [them](#) in speaking with their children about vaping
- Locally, Not An Experiment is being implemented in elementary and high schools in partnership with the School Health team and education partners.
- Smoke-Free Program staff also chair a provincial working group to support the implementation and evaluation of Not An Experiment across Ontario.

SMOKE-FREE PROGRAM

Cessation

- According to a recently released report from Public Health Ontario, on average each year within SMDHU's catchment area, over 850 deaths, 3,000 hospitalizations and 7,000 Emergency Room visits are as a result of health conditions attributable to smoking in people age 35 and older ([Public Health Ontario, 2023](#)).
- To continue supporting Simcoe Muskoka residents to reduce/quit their commercial tobacco use, the Smoke-Free Program/SMDHU is joining the CAMH STOP (Smoking Treatment for Ontario Patients) Program.
- The STOP program provides up to 26 weeks of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) to be used in combination with individual counselling provided by Smoke-Free Program PHNs.
- Importantly, STOP has been able to reach and be successfully implemented within vulnerable communities that face barriers to accessing care.
- The team also offers vaping cessation counselling services to those 18 years of age and older.
 - For those younger than 18, we encourage youth to visit *Quash* or the *#StopVaping Challenge*.
 - These app-based supports are linked at [NotAnExperiment.ca](#) or via QR codes on a print resource available from the Smoke-Free Program.
- When it comes to vaping products and quitting smoking, we know for people who smoke, *completely* switching to vaping (e-cigarettes) has reduced health risks.
- However, switching to e-cigarettes does not eliminate *all* risks, and harms associated with long-term e-cigarette use are beginning to emerge.
- Though vaping may present an option for quitting smoking, the recommendation remains to try other smoking cessation treatments first (e.g., patches, sprays, lozenges) or ask your healthcare provider about prescription medications like Champix or Zyban that have been shown to help people quit successfully.



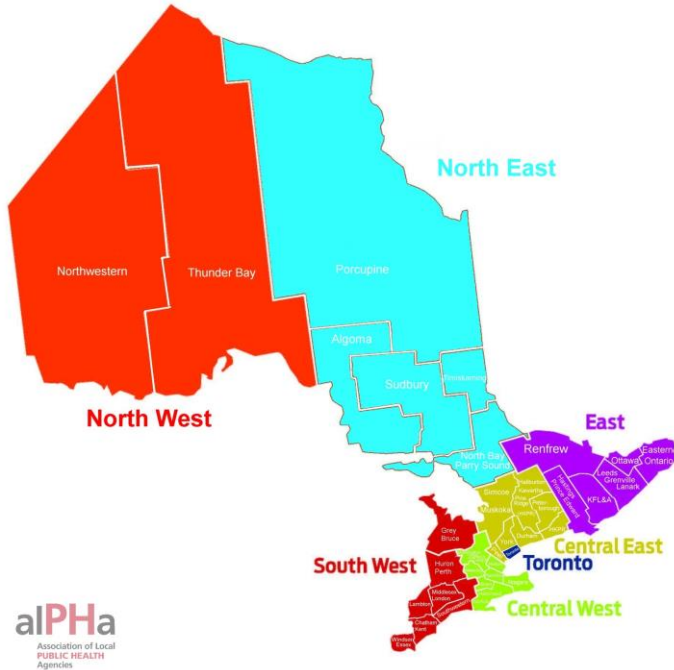
SMOKE-FREE PROGRAM



- Other activities on the Smoke-Free Program operational plan include work with partners in support of smoke and vapour-free housing, college and university campuses, municipalities and screens.
- Due to the team's capacity, these activities are currently being responded to on a request for service basis, though we hope to be able to dedicate more resources to them later in 2023 and 2024.



CENTRAL EAST TOBACCO CONTROL AREA NETWORK (TCAN)



- Ontario's public health units are divided to form the memberships of Ontario's seven Tobacco Control Areas or TCANs.
- TCANs provide leadership to and coordination of commercial tobacco and vaping control efforts across Ontario.
- TCANs collaborate to:
 - Coordinate with regional and provincial partners to better leveraging resources, reducing duplication of efforts and ensuring alignment and consistency between PHUs related to activities such as research, communication campaigns, and data collection.
 - Increase capacity of partners to implement commercial tobacco and vapour product interventions including supporting healthy behaviours, developing healthy public policies, and creating supportive environments.
 - Provide leadership opportunities and develop the necessary skills to make healthy behaviour choices easier for priority populations.
 - Enhance organizational readiness for TCANs/health units to deliver on planned tobacco and vapour product program initiatives to ensure effective implementation and evaluation.
- SMDHU is the coordinating health unit for the Central East TCAN, whose membership includes Durham Region Health Department; Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit; Peel Public Health; Peterborough Public Health; and York Region Public Health, as well as the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.
 - This means that in addition to serving the communities within Simcoe Muskoka, the Smoke-Free Program also provides leadership to and supports the efforts of regional and provincial smoke and vapour-control activities.

SMOKE-FREE ONTARIO ENFORCEMENT

Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 (“SFOA”) mandatory inspections and response to complaints and requests from the public related to tobacco, vapour products and cannabis including:

Retail compliance inspections of all businesses selling tobacco and vapour products including convenience stores, specialty vape stores and tobacconists.

Youth access inspections (“test shopping”) of all businesses that sell tobacco and vapour products.

Ongoing attendance at all secondary schools to support smoke-free / vape-free schools and school property in partnership with administration.

Response to all smoking and vaping complaints inside workplaces and public places (including work and public transportation vehicles); controlled area inspections (“smoking room”) at LTC.

