

AT A GLANCE

- Lakeland Public Health's new phone number
- Preparing for fall respiratory season
- New scabies fact sheet
- Updates on fall vaccines, immunization rates, and Ebola
- Upcoming educational opportunities

Important! The health unit has a new phone number: 1-844-575-4567

Please call this number and listen to the options to reach the department you need. The old number will be decommissioned after a transition period.

**Fall Respiratory Season**

It is never too early to prepare for the 2026–2027 respiratory season. Use the checklist below to support outbreak readiness at your facility:

- ☐ Conduct a comprehensive audit to assess all components of your facility's IPAC program.
- ☐ Address any gaps or issues identified during the audit.
- ☐ Review communication pathways with staff for outbreak scenarios.
- ☐ Run mock outbreak drills with staff.
- ☐ Check expiry dates for PPE, alcohol-based hand rub, specimen collection kits, and cleaning and disinfecting products.
- ☐ Review stock of specimen collection kits and order more, if needed.
- ☐ Prepare consent forms for influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations.
- ☐ Plan conversations with residents and family members regarding immunization.
- ☐ Prepare prophylaxis standing prescriptions, where applicable.

A Fall Preparedness Connect & Learn session will be scheduled for congregate living settings. Reach out to the IPAC Hub for support during your planning if needed.

New Outbreak Process

A new online option for reporting outbreaks will be available on our website starting August 1, 2026. Use of the online form is **voluntary and should be used during business hours only**.

If reporting between 4:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., facilities are encouraged to call the Infectious Diseases team to help ensure a timely response.

Facilities may continue to report a suspect outbreak by calling the Infectious Diseases team at 1-844-575-4567 or by email at outbreaks@lakelandsph.ca.

After the online form has been reviewed, the Infectious Diseases team will contact you to discuss outbreak status and provide further information.

Fall Vaccine Update

Information about influenza and COVID-19 vaccine availability is expected in September 2026. Eligibility criteria for this season's RSV vaccine are also expected to be announced in September 2026.

Pharmacists are now authorized to administer the following publicly funded vaccines:

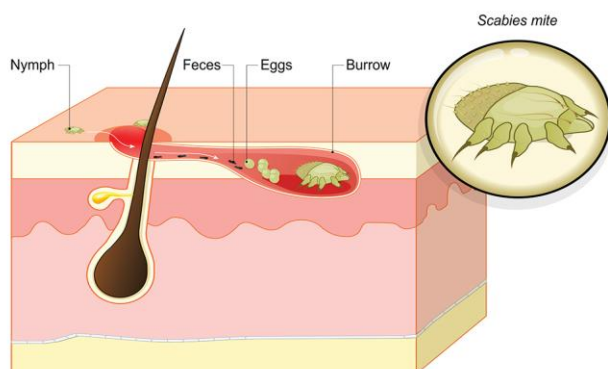
- Tetanus
- Pertussis
- Diphtheria
- Pneumococcal
- RSV
- Shingles
- COVID-19
- Influenza

Pharmacists have the choice to participate in this expanded publicly funded vaccine program. With pharmacists now licensed to administer the RSV vaccine, the health unit will no longer provide RSV vaccine clinics in retirement homes. Contact local pharmacists to determine who will partner with you to provide the RSV vaccine to unimmunized residents in your home.

Important! The Peterborough fax number of 705-743-2897 is no longer active.

Please update your records with the new vaccine fax number of 905-885-5352. Orders faxed to the old Peterborough fax number will not be received or processed.

Spotlight on Scabies



Scabies is an infestation of the skin caused by the *Sarcoptes scabiei* mite. Itching is intense, especially at night. Outside of human skin, mites usually do not survive for more than four days. There are three different clinical presentations of scabies, with crusted scabies being uncommon, the most severe, and the most contagious.

For more information, check out our new fact sheet: [LPH Scabies Factsheet](#)

Lakelands IPAC Hub presents Connect & Learn

Based on your feedback, we are excited to introduce monthly **Connect & Learn sessions**. These sessions will alternate between educational presentations, guest speakers, and interactive opportunities for discussion and knowledge sharing.

Education Opportunities

Exploring the Role of Rapid Respiratory Diagnostics in Acute and Long-Term Care Settings

- Tuesday, September 8, 2026, from 1:00pm to 2:00pm EST.
- 1 IPU will be provided by the Certification Board of Infection Control.
- [Click here to register](#)

Breaking Down Abstracts: A Practical Approach for IPAC Professionals

- Thursday, October 22, 2026, from 1:00pm to 2:00pm EST.
- 1 IPU will be provided by the Certification Board of Infection Control.
- [Click here to register](#)

IPAC Canada Essentials in IPAC in Long Term Care: Hybrid course in Toronto. Registration is available [here](#). Tuition is \$2,499, and the deadline for registration is September 15, 2026.

Infection Prevention and Control Course with Centennial College

An 8-month online learning opportunity, starting in September. The course is endorsed by IPAC Canada. The course will provide 10 IPU's toward CBIC recertification. More information can be found [here](#).

Lakelands Loop

The Lakelands Loop is an email newsletter featuring topics of interest for physicians and primary care professionals including:

- Urgent public health alerts
- Clinically relevant updates
- Content that directly impacts a primary care provider's practice

For past Loop newsletters, please visit [Health Care Providers](#) and click [here](#) to be included on the distribution list.

Health Care Worker Influenza Immunization Rates

PHO has released an [updated surveillance report](#) outlining trends in median reported staff influenza immunization coverage in hospitals and long-term care homes from 2007–08 to the 2025–26 respiratory virus surveillance seasons. The analysis presented in this report may support policy planning and influenza vaccination promotion.

Ebola Update

On May 15, 2026, an outbreak of Ebola disease was declared following the confirmation of Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD) in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. Ebola disease is spread through direct contact with body fluids or tissues of an infected animal or person. It is not spread through the air or through casual contact. **There are no suspected or confirmed cases in Ontario, and the current risk remains low.**

For more information and resources, visit PHO’s [Supporting Preparedness with Ebola Disease Resources](#) webpage.

Contact Information

	Legacy HKPR	Legacy PPH
IPAC Hub	ipachub@lakelandsph.ca	
Outbreak Reporting & Questions	During business hours: 1-844-575-4567 ext. 6 outbreaks@lakelandsph.ca Outside of business hours: 1-888-255-7839	During business hours: 1-844-575-4567 ext. 6 Outbreak Form or email infectiousdiseases@lakelandsph.ca Outside of business hours: 705-760-8127
Vaccine Information	immunization@lakelandsph.ca	immunizationrecords@lakelandsph.ca