



Hamilton

# INFORMATION REPORT

**CITY WIDE  
IMPLICATIONS**

<b>To:</b>	Mayor and Members Board of Health		
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<b>Date:</b>	September 9, 2008		
<b>Re:</b>	<b>Communicable Disease and Health Hazard Investigations Quarterly Report (Q2) (April 1, 2008 – June 30, 2008) - BOH08020 (a) (City Wide)</b>		

## **Council Direction:**

This report is provided in keeping with the Board of Health policy on communication between the Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Health, as outlined in Report PH06038.

## **Information:**

This is a summary report covering the period from April 1 to June 30, 2008, summarizing investigations for the second quarter of 2008 (3 months).

## Reportable Communicable Diseases

### SUMMARY

- During the second quarter of 2008, 697 confirmed reports of communicable disease were received by the City of Hamilton Public Health Services (PHS). These are summarized in Appendix A.
- 31 outbreaks declared between April 1 and June 30, 2008 were investigated.
- 51% (16) of outbreaks occurred in Long Term Care Homes, 6% (2) in Retirement Homes, 29% (9) occurred in an Acute Care Centres, 10% (3) occurred in a child care centres and/or schools. Both enteric and respiratory outbreak activities were significant in that quarter. Increased outbreaks are expected during the winter and spring months since the peak activity for both viral gastroenteritis and viral respiratory illness including influenza usually occur in those months. The outbreak results are summarized in Table 1.
- 3% (1) of the outbreaks occurred in a community setting and are listed in Table 2.

Under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, laboratories and physicians are required to report the occurrence of 55 specified communicable diseases to the local public health unit. Due to the presence of a provincial public health laboratory and tertiary care hospitals in Hamilton, City of Hamilton Public Health Services (PHS) receives many reports for persons tested or hospitalized in Hamilton who reside in other health unit jurisdictions. These reports are forwarded to the health unit where the tested person resides for investigation and followed by the relevant health unit and are not included with the numbers presented here.

**Table 1:**  
**Institutional Outbreaks Declared between April 1 – June 30, 2008.**

Outbreak Type	Outbreak Count
Enteric	7
Influenza	7
Other Respiratory	10
Other	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

**Table 2:**  
**Community Outbreaks Declared between April 1 – June 30, 2008.**

	Event	Description
1	RESTAURANT MEAL	5 individuals developed enteric illness after eating dinner together. One stool sample result was positive for campylobacter. Inspection of the restaurant found compliance with appropriate food preparation and storage. The investigation was not able to identify a source for this illness event.

Health Hazard Investigations

The Health Protection and Promotion Act defines a health hazard as;

- (a) a condition of a premises,
- (b) a substance, thing, plant or animal other than man, or
- (c) a solid, liquid, gas or combination of any of them,

that has or that is likely to have an adverse effect on the health of any person.

PHS initiates investigations based on information received from the public, other Provincial Agencies or City Departments that relate to existing properties or facilities that, through the nature of the business or the site conditions, could fall under the definition of a health hazard.

To determine if a health hazard exists, PHS responds to complaints and enquiries from the public, by conducting on site inspections or providing advice through phone contact, email or letters.

Most of the investigations arise from complaints received from individual members of the public. In addition, PHS staff are often involved in investigations led by other agencies (e.g. Ministry of Environment) or the Infectious Disease team within PHS.

The following is a summary of the number and types of complaints and enquiries investigated in the second quarter of 2008 and grouped together based on the Mandatory Program area each would fall into.

**Second Quarter Highlights (Q2)**

• **Smoke Free Ontario Act highlight (Display Ban of Tobacco Products)**

As of May 31, 2008 the provincial Smoke Free Ontario Act prohibited the display of tobacco products. Prior to this date, our Tobacco Enforcement Officers conducted educational visits to all of our City of Hamilton licensed tobacco vendors to explain the changes and work with them to achieve compliance. Inspections after May 31, 2008, of our 509 licensed tobacco vendors revealed a 100% compliance rate. This extremely high compliance rate is echoed throughout the province.

**SUMMARY**

HEALTH HAZARD ABATEMENT	2007(Q2)		2008 (Q2)	
	Complaints/ Investigations requiring a site visit	Telephone/ e-mail Inquiries not requiring a site visit	Complaints/ Investigations requiring a site visit	Telephone/ e-mail Inquiries not requiring a site visit
Asbestos	3	3	3	3
Bed bugs	9	5	53	17
Cockroaches	17	0	36	1
Diogenes (recluse response)	7	0	2	1
General sanitation	9	0	5	2
Housing	23	2	20	9
Insects (other than those already listed under the Property Standards By-law #03-117)	5	3	6	1
Marijuana Grow Operations	2	1	1	18 (Police reports)
Mice	31	4	27	2
Mould	58	17	68	9
Odour	35	2	31	2
Other	24	8	32	16
Rats	25	2	17	1
Sewage	9	0	7	2
Sharps	15	1	29	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>				
Adulteration	21	4	47	1
Education	1	6	0	3
Emergency Fire/Flood	0	0	5	1
Food Sample Testing	1	0	0	1
Garbage	9	0	1	0
General Food Inquiry	0	21	3	20
Other	10	13	15	2
Request For Inspection	18	12	11	15
Sanitation	9	1	15	0

HEALTH HAZARD ABATEMENT	2007(Q2)		2008 (Q2)	
	Complaints/ Investigations requiring a site visit	Telephone/ e-mail Inquiries not requiring a site visit	Complaints/ Investigations requiring a site visit	Telephone/ e-mail Inquiries not requiring a site visit
Special Event	1	7	1	5
Suspect Illness	22	0	13	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>WNV</b>				
Standing water complaints	93	8	55	0
Dead bird complaints	488 sightings reported	16 submissions for testing	468 sightings reported	13 submissions for testing
<b>TOBACCO CONTROL under Smoke Free Ontario Act</b>				
Other (Non Smoke Free Ontario)	22	4	3	23
Sales Related/Display	7	0	10	13
Smoking Related	36	6	46	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>WATER QUALITY</b>				
General Inquiries	4	36	13	139
Adverse Water Quality Events <sup>1</sup>	28	58	29	0
Boil/Drinking Water Advisories	2	0	0	0
Recreational Water Postings	2	2	7	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>INFECTION CONTROL/INJURY PREVENTION</b>				
Potential Human Exposure To Rabies	451	0	374	0
Rabies Vaccine Deliveries	27	0	22	0
Compliance With Childcare, Public Pool, Personal Service Setting Regulation/Guidelines	5	11	7	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>5</b>

<sup>1</sup> The adverse drinking water incidents pertain to lab reports that indicate the drinking quality did not meet the prescribed drinking water standards for the Province of Ontario for samples collected from regulated drinking water systems and did not warrant a B/DWA. These adverse events did not warrant a B/DWA because subsequent Corrective Action and confirmation samples met the Ontario drinking water standards; and the initial risk assessment and public health protocols did not indicate a need to issue a BWA without first taking Corrective Action and follow-up samples to confirm the adverse drinking water condition.

All affected users are notified directly in writing about the existence of a Boil Water Advisory and about precautions they need to take and/or keep in place until the BWA is lifted. BWA Notices are also posted in public locations at the affected locations.

Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
 Medical Officer of Health  
 Public Health Services

## REPORTABLE DISEASE CASES REPORTED TO THE CITY OF HAMILTON, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2008

Cases are reported among individuals who resided within the City of Hamilton at the time of their diagnosis. These figures are preliminary. Figures are subject to change due to case follow-up procedures and/or delayed diagnosis. Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted 11/8/2008.

Reportable Disease	Confirmed/ probable case count	Suspect case count	Min - Max count per quarter 2003 - 2007
Amebiasis	1	0	3 - 7
Anthrax	0	0	0 - 0
Botulism	0	0	0 - 0
Brucellosis	0	0	0 - 0
Campylobacter Enteritis	29	0	14 - 25
Chancroid	0	0	0 - 0
Chickenpox (Varicella) <i>This number reflects either laboratory-confirmed cases or those hospitalized due to complications of their infection.</i>	1	0	Unavailable
Chlamydial Infections	298	0	229 - 267
Cholera	0	0	0 - 0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	1	0	0 - 0
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	0 - 1
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	1 - 3
Cytomegalovirus Infection, Congenital	0	0	0 - 0
Diphtheria	0	0	0 - 0
Encephalitis/Meningitis	6	0	1 - 6
Giardiasis	18	0	6 - 19
Gonorrhoea	41	0	28 - 56
Group A Streptococcal Disease, Invasive	11	0	2 - 17
Group B Streptococcal Disease, Neonatal	0	0	0 - 0
Haemophilus Influenzae B Disease, Invasive	0	0	0 - 0
Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	0	0	0 - 0
Hemorrhagic Fevers	0	0	0 - 0
Hepatitis A	0	0	0 - 5

Reportable Disease	Confirmed/ probable case count	Suspect case count	Min - Max count per quarter 2003 - 2007
Hepatitis B, Acute	3	1	1 - 2
Hepatitis C	53	4	44 - 86
Hepatitis D	0	0	0 - 0
Hepatitis, Non Abcd	0	0	0 - 0
Herpes, Neonatal	1	0	0 - 0
HIV/AIDS Infection <i>These numbers include newly recognized laboratory-confirmed HIV infections and include persons diagnosed with AIDS without previous HIV infection.</i>	7	1	5 - 12
Influenza, Institutional Outbreak Cases	70	0	0 - 50
Influenza, Laboratory Confirmed Community Cases	101	0	1 - 45
Lassa Fever	0	0	0 - 0
Legionellosis	0	0	Unavailable
Leprosy	0	0	0 - 0
Listeriosis	2	0	0 - 1
Lyme Disease	0	0	0 - 0
Malaria	0	0	0 - 2
Measles	0	0	0 - 0
Meningococcal Disease, Invasive	1	0	0 - 1
Mumps	0	0	0 - 2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0 - 0
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0 - 0
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	3	0	0 - 13
Plague	0	0	0 - 0
Poliomyelitis, Acute	0	0	0 - 0
Psittacosis/Ornithosis	0	0	0 - 0
Q Fever	0	0	0 - 0
Rabies	0	0	0 - 0
Rubella	0	0	0 - 0
Rubella, Congenital	0	0	0 - 0

Reportable Disease	Confirmed/ probable case count	Suspect case count	Min - Max count per quarter 2003 - 2007
Salmonellosis	12	0	13 - 52
SARS	0	0	Unavailable
Shigellosis	3	0	1 - 5
Smallpox	0	0	0 - 0
Streptococcus Pneumoniae, Invasive	18	0	16 - 26
Syphilis, Early Congenital	0	0	Unavailable
Syphilis, Late Latent, Neurosyphilis	7	0	Unavailable
Syphilis, Primary, Secondary, Early Latent	3	0	Unavailable
Syphilis, Under Investigation/Unstaged	0	7	Unavailable
<b>Syphilis, Total</b> <i>Testing changes for the detection of syphilis partly explain the increase in Syphilis, particularly in the non-infectious stage.</i>	10	7	Unavailable
Tetanus	0	0	0 - 0
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy	0	0	0 - 0
Trichinosis	0	0	0 - 0
Tuberculosis, Active <i>These numbers include only active cases of Tuberculosis. Through TB screening activities, 167 inactive TB cases were reported and include positive skin test results and individuals referred to Public Health for medical surveillance.</i>	2	4	2 - 6
Tularemia	0	0	0 - 0
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0 - 1
Verotoxin Producing E. Coli Including Hus	2	0	0 - 2
West Nile Virus Illness	0	0	0 - 1
Yellow Fever	0	0	0 - 0
Yersiniosis	2	0	2 - 5