

**YORK REGION PUBLIC HEALTH BRANCH  
PEER REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS 2006-2008**

1. Stalker, S., Weir, E., Vessel, S., Mikail, J. (pending Nov/Dec 2008). Planning a coordinated local health care system response to a pandemic in using an accelerated Delphi technique: Phase 1. Accepted by *Canadian Journal of Public Health*.

Using a Delphi technique, this study describes the effective process that York Region Public Health took in planning a coordinated local health system response to a pandemic.

2. Payne, M. (2008). Responding to Patient's Concerns about Lead in Drinking Water. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 179(3), 253-254.

Targeted at primary care physicians, this article addresses patients' concerns about lead in drinking water by describing the exposure and hazard assessment process, which in turn informs risk management decisions.

3. Cronkwright Kirkos, W., Carrique, T., Griffen, K., La Barge, A. P. (2008). The York Region Methamphetamine Strategy. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 178(13), 1655-1656.

The York Regional Police and the York Region Health Service Substance Abuse Prevention Program developed a Methamphetamine Strategy, which includes 27 initiatives that are based on prevention, treatment, enforcement, analysis and preparation. This strategy won the Kaiser Foundation's National Awards for Excellence in mental health and addictions in 2007.

4. Brown, K., Prescott, J. (2008). Leptospirosis in the family dog: a public health perspective. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 178(4), 399-401.

The incidence of leptospirosis infections in domestic dogs has risen markedly in recent years in the United States and Canada; this article alerts primary care physicians to this possibility and describes the etiology, treatment of prevention of leptospirosis.

5. MacDonald, N., Weir, E., Langley, J. M. (2007). Influenza and the influenza vaccine. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 177(9), 1028.

Targeted at patients and the general population, this article provides facts on influenza and the influenza vaccine.

6. Weir, E., Mitchell, J., Rebellato, S., Fortuna, D. (2007). Raw milk and the protection of public health. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 177(7), 721-723.

Targeted at other health units, this article outlines the steps Public Health takes in carrying out the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* on preventing the distribution of raw milk and raw milk products.

7. Rea, E., Laflèche, J., Stalker, S., Guarda, B. K., Shapiro, H., Johnson, I., Bondy, S. J., Upshur, R., Russell, M. L., Eliasziw, M. (2007). Duration and distance of exposure are important predictors of transmission among community Ontario SARS cases. *Epidemiology and Infection*, 135(6), 914-921.

This study was the first to report the relationship between level of exposure and attack rate among community contacts of probable SARS cases.

8. Guilbert, E., Boroditsky, R., Black, A., Kives, S., Leboeuf, M., Mirosh, N., Senikas, V., Wagner, M. S., Weir, E. (2007). Canadian Consensus Guideline on Continuous and Extended Hormonal Contraception. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*, 29(7 Suppl 2), S1-S32.

This consensus guideline provides guidance on the use of continuous and extended combined hormonal contraception regimes to sexual health clinics. The guidelines have influenced the policy of sexual health clinics and changed the public health practice in preventing unintended pregnancy and improving health-related quality of life in women.

9. MacDonald, N., Weir, E., Patrick, D., Potvin, L., Scott, J. (2007). Expansion of *Canadian Medical Association Journal's* support for health promotion and disease prevention. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 177(3), 268-269.

The *Canadian Medical Association Journal* announces its vision of public health in this article. It recognizes the important role of public health in maintaining the health and well-being of individuals and populations worldwide and supports the expansion of the range and depth of public health coverage in its journal.

10. Weir, E., Cohen, M. (2007). A 48-year-old woman with lymphangiolo-myomatosis. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 176(9), 1271-1272.

This case study raises awareness among primary care physicians of an emerging lung disease that is often under-diagnosed, progressive and fatal.

11. Payne, M., McCaffrey, M. (2006) Efficacy of Goss Traps in Controlling Mosquito Breeding. *Environmental Health Review*, 50(4), 127-133.

With support from the Town of Richmond Hill, this study tested a hypothesis on goss trap catch basin and control of mosquitoes. The findings have led to changes in West Nile Virus prevention practices in York Region and considerable impacts for other municipalities throughout Ontario.

12. Wilson-Clark, S.D., Deeks, S.L., Gournis, E., Hay, K. \*, Bondy, S., Kennedy, E., Johnson, I., Rea, E., Kuschak, T, Green, D. Abbas, Z. Guarda, B.\* (2006). Household transmission of SARS, 2003. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 175(10), 1219-1223.

This study examines the risk factors and characteristics associated with the transmission of SARS within households.

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\* Karen Hay and Brenda Guarda were epidemiologists in York Region when the articles were written

13. Weir, E., Main, C. (2006). Invasive group A streptococcal infections. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 175(1), 32.

This article targets primary care physicians by describing the epidemiology, management and prevention of invasive group A streptococci infection.

14. Weir, E., Hay, K. (2006). E-coli-sporadic case or an outbreak? *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 174(12), 1711.

Most incidents of E. coli O157:H7 infection reported to and investigated by public health personnel are isolated and sporadic. Public health officials are responsible to ascertain whether each case reported is a sporadic case or an outbreak. This article demonstrates the important role of primary care physicians in timely reporting in assisting public health to control outbreaks.

15. Kurji, K., Payne, M., Doyle, H., La Marca, J. (2006). The Lesser Evils of Battling Round Goby Infiltration. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 174(11), 1557.

The invasion of round goby in the Town of Georgina posed a threat to the ecosystem. This article outlines the deliberations public health undertook around the interventions used to control round goby in Lake Simcoe.