

The two faces of syphilis: A call for sustained, national and coordinated responses to syphilis

An information exchange event for public health specialists to strengthen the syphilis response across Canada

Montréal, November 22-23

Hôtel Gouverneurs, Room Gouverneur 1-2

AGENDA

Purpose: 1) To provide a forum for information exchange on innovative, integrative and community-informed public health strategies with demonstrated and promising effectiveness in prevention and case management. 2) To share promising practices addressing current program gaps with a focus on adapting public health strategies to local contexts and affected populations. The specific objectives of the meeting are to:

- Share the current state of syphilis outbreaks, highlighting what we know about the burden with an emphasis on what is new and what has changed over the last years.
- Share innovative ways of looking at surveillance data to better tailor public health responses and inform public health strategies.
- Share evidence-based, practice-based, and client-centered knowledge that can contribute to improve public health interventions and partner notification activities.
- Provide opportunities to discuss national STBBI frameworks and population-specific challenges to develop, coordinate and adapt innovative and integrated public health strategies.

DAY 1		
4:00-4:30 PM	Registration & Refreshments	
4:30-4:45 PM	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Yoav Keynan, NCCID Co-Scientific Lead
	<i>Disentangling the burden of syphilis</i>	
4:45-6:00 PM	<p>Presentations (15 min and 5 min Q&A) <i>An overview of the provincial and territorial epidemiological contexts</i> Specific objective: To provide an overview the situation of syphilis in selected jurisdictions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Monahan and Elaine Randell, Government of Nunavut • Alicia Lapple and Pierre Plourde, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority • Andrea Doyle, Eastern Health-Community Services, Newfoundland 	Moderated presentations
6:00-7:30 PM	<p>Presentations (10 min and 5 min Q&A) and Discussion <i>Strengthening the surveillance systems; how do we get better at knowing what is going on</i> Specific objective: To discuss ways to strengthen surveillance capacity and innovative ways to analyze regional/provincial/territorial data to better understand the local and hidden epidemics and inform public health strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STBBIs Technical Report from Peel - Barbara Fowler, Region of Peel • Geography of sex and syphilis to inform public health control strategies - Dionne Gesink, University of Toronto • Modeling the rebound in syphilis cases – Sharmistha Mishra, University of Toronto • A Syphilis Outbreak Investigation in Northern Manitoba: Social Networks, Risk Factors and Response–Tammy Stuart Chester, Public Health Agency of Canada 	Moderated presentations and group discussion
7:30 PM	Dinner	

DAY 2		
8:15 AM	Breakfast and welcome to Day 2	Yoav Keynan, NCCID Co-Scientific Lead
	<i>Innovative strategies; Improving prevention and control</i>	
8:30-10:00 AM	<p>Presentations (10 min and 5 min Q&A)</p> <p><i>Innovative Interventions and Messaging: the good and the bad</i></p> <p>Specific objective: To share successes and failures around approaches that have been implemented in provinces or territories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assertive testing – Alicia Lapple, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority • HIV PrEP and syphilis – Élysabeth Lacombe, Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec • Integration of syphilis with routine HIV viral load – Ann Burchell, St. Michael's Hospital • Regional implementation of Getcheckedonline.com – Sophie Bannar-Martin, Island Health • A review of the process and evaluation of a poster campaign in Northern Health Region – Shohan Illsley, 595 Prevention 	Moderated presentations
10:00 – 10:15 AM	Break	
10:15 AM-10:45 AM	<p>Presentation (10 min and 5 min Q&A) and discussion</p> <p><i>Partner notification; yes, no, maybe</i></p> <p>Specific objective: To review the recent literature about partner notification and discuss the relevance, the effectiveness, the resources distribution and cost-effectiveness of partner notification activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geneviève Boily-Larouche, National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases 	Moderated presentation and group discussion
10:45-11:45 AM	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><i>Using the new technologies in public health; the way forward</i></p> <p>Specific objective: To share experiences and best practices for using and evaluating new technologies to promote healthy sexuality, develop social marketing campaign and conduct partner notification activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Novak, Online Buddies • Matthew Halse, AIDS Community Care Montreal • Amy Nahwegahbow, Native Women's Association of Canada 	Panel discussion Facilitator Jaqueline Gahagan
11:45-12:30 PM	Lunch	
12:30-2:30PM	<p>Discussion in small groups, 15 min report back</p> <p><i>1) Indigenous focus</i></p> <p><i>Facilitators: Roberta Stout, National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, and Margaret Haworth-Brockman, National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases</i></p> <p><i>2) MSM focus</i></p> <p><i>Facilitator: Brook Biggin, Edmonton Men's Health Collective</i></p> <p>Specific objective: To provide opportunities for participants to discuss barriers and challenges to improve programs and consider new strategies that can be adapted to their local context.</p>	Participants will select their group according to their local context and population of interest.
2:30- 3:00 PM	<p>Discussion and wrap-up</p> <p><i>Now what? How can we make it happen?</i></p> <p>Specific objective: To identify how the ideas discussed during the event can be translated into actions. The participants will be asked to identify what initiatives could help reduce the burden of syphilis in their jurisdiction, who are the key partners to contact and the type of support needed to achieve this goal.</p>	Full group discussion using the "assessment of the needs" tool
3:00– 3:30 PM	Evaluation and meeting adjourns	