

Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Report: January – June, 2017 (Q1/Q2)

Part 1: Mandatory Reporting							
1a) Confirmed Cases of Mandatory Reportable Diseases						Top 3 diseases for each disease category (January – June, 2017): Respiratory/Direct Contact: 1. Influenza 2. Latent (non-infectious) Tuberculosis 3. Streptococcus pneumoniae (invasive) Enteric, Foodborne & Waterborne: 1. Salmonellosis 2. Campylobacter enteritis 3. Giardiasis Vectorborne and Zoonotic: 1. Malaria Sexually Transmitted/Bloodborne: 1. Chlamydial infections 2. Gonorrhea 3. Hepatitis C ¹ The past flu season was dominated by a circulating H3 subtype of influenza A. When influenza A H3 is the dominant circulating flu subtype, we typically see increased cases in older individuals (65+) and a higher incidence of respiratory outbreaks in Long-Term Care and Retirement institutional settings. ² A higher number of reports of animal bites in 2016 and the beginning of 2017 are likely from increased awareness of rabies, due to the Hamilton and Ontario raccoon rabies outbreak that began in December 2015. ³ The number of ticks submitted to Hamilton Public Health Services (PHS) for species identification has exceeded submissions since 2014; this may be due to increased public awareness about ticks and the risk of Lyme disease. There may also be an increase in ticks overall, as other health units are seeing increased submissions. The majority (96%) of ticks submitted to PHS were American dog ticks, which cannot transmit Lyme disease.	
How It's Spread	2014	2015	2016	Jan-Jun 2017	Jul-Dec 2017		
Respiratory or Direct Contact ¹	1238	1309	1474	833			
Enteric, Foodborne & Waterborne	301	312	264	118			
Vectorborne and Zoonotic Diseases	11	17	12	6			
Sexually Transmitted & Bloodborne Infections	1901	2036	2234	1147			
Other	35	21	29	17			
1b) Confirmed Outbreaks Reportable to Public Health							
Type of Outbreak	2014	2015	2016	Jan-Jun 2017	Jul-Dec 2017		
Community	8	4	6	2			
Institutional	107	129	80	86			
Part 2: Environmental Health							
2a) Mandatory Program Services							
Programs	Areas	2014	2015	2016	Jan-Jun 2017		Jul-Dec 2017
Vectorborne Disease ^{2,3}	Animal Bites ²	1433	1423	1508	714		
	Ticks Submitted ³	144	352	297	667		
Food	Special Events	76	73	56	29		
	Food Handler Certifications	2696	2602	2572	1521		
	Red Signs Posted	26	31	25	14		
Health Hazards	Heat Alerts	3	4	9	1		
	Cold Alerts	13	8	8	3		

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2b) Inspection and Enforcement						<p>⁴ Tobacco Control Enforcement is reporting a decrease in the total number of Smoke Free Ontario Act (legal enforcement) inspections for the first half of 2017 as a result of increased compliance with the Regulations concerning tobacco sales to minors. Consequently, less follow-up enforcement checks were required.</p> <p>⁵ The Electronic Cigarette Act came in effect on January 1, 2016. The only Regulation associated with the Act that is currently in effect concerns age-restricted sales to a person 19 years of age or older.</p>
Categories	2014	2015	2016	Jan-Jun 2017	Jul-Dec 2017	
Smoke Free Ontario Act inspections (legal enforcement) ⁴	1760	1640	1465	709		
Electronic Cigarette Act inspections (legal enforcement) ⁵	n/a	n/a	544	205		
City of Hamilton By-law #11-080 Prohibiting Smoking within City Owned Parks and Recreation Property	56	56	73	34		
Food	6524	6616	5755	2931		
Water	885	853	884	394		
Residential Care Facilities	567	671	615	272		
Personal Service Settings	946	971	1015	456		
Day Cares	558	569	608	231		
Other (e.g. funeral homes)	225	201	246	134		
Infection Prevention and Control**	n/a	n/a	0	3		
Part 3: Workload						
3a) Complaints						<p>⁶ The decrease in the number food complaints in 2016 and the first half of 2017 may be due to a change in the way the complaints were documented, from a paper-based system to an electronic system (called OSCAR).</p> <p>⁷ A decrease in water complaints in 2016 and the first half of 2017 may be due to a change in the ways calls were documented, from a paper-based system to an electronic system (called OSCAR).</p> <p>⁸ The majority of the health hazard complaints are related to pests (bed bugs, rats and cockroaches) which have been steadily increasing over the years.</p>
Categories	2014	2015	2016	Jan-Jun 2017	Jul-Dec 2017	
Smoke Free Ontario Act	241	335	274	102		
Electronic Cigarette Act	n/a	n/a	17	5		
City of Hamilton By-law #11-080 Prohibiting Smoking within City Owned Parks and Recreation Property	32	39	28	9		
Food ⁶	415	316	249	98		
Water ⁷	47	35	37	5		
Vectorborne Disease	97	102	109	51		
Infection Control	119	129	64	45		
Health Hazards ⁸	1250	1502	1638	838		

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3b) Education, Requests for Non-Routine Inspections, Consults, Referrals						⁹ The increase in the number of calls concerning Food Safety in 2016 and the first half of 2017 may be due to a change in the way calls were documented, from a paper-based system to an electronic system (called OSCAR). ¹⁰ The increase in the number of calls concerning Infection Control in 2016 and the first half of 2017 may be due to a change in the way calls were documented, from a paper-based system to an electronic system (called OSCAR).
Categories	2014	2015	2016	Jan-Jun 2017	Jul-Dec 2017	
Food ⁹	378	440	795	434		
Water	547	480	487	250		
Vectorborne Disease	56	48	44	27		
Infection Control ¹⁰	409	580	1415	883		
Health Hazards	234	267	637	179		
Part 4: Unusual Occurrences						
There were no unusual occurrences in Q1/Q2 of 2017.						

****Note:** Starting in the fall of 2015, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has mandated the posting of Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) lapses to the Hamilton website. A new category under *2b) Inspection and Enforcement* called **Infection Prevention and Control** was created to capture IPAC lapses that resulted in postings on the Hamilton website, instead of all IPAC complaints received. This category includes:

- All IPAC Lapses identified and linked to the conduct of a regulated health professional
- All IPAC Lapses identified in Personal Services Settings
- All IPAC Lapses identified in settings not routinely inspected by the Board of Health