



# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b> Mayor and Members Board of Health	<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> CITY WIDE
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b> February 28, 2011	
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b> Communicable Disease and Health Hazard Investigations Quarterly Report (Q3 July 1 to September 30, 2010) BOH10017(c) (City Wide)	
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<b>SIGNATURE:</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 July 1 to September 30, 2010, summarizing investigations for the third quarter of 2010 (3 months).

PHS has been providing this report in this form since 2006. In order to improve this report to ensure that it continues to align with Board members' needs, PHS will solicit feedback from Board members in May in order to incorporate into the Q1 2011 report.

## Reportable Communicable Diseases

### SUMMARY

- During the third quarter of 2010, 666 confirmed or probable reports of communicable disease were received by the City of Hamilton Public Health Services (PHS). These are summarized in Appendix A.
- 15 Outbreaks declared between July 1 and September 30, 2010 were investigated.
- 60% (9) of outbreaks occurred in Long Term Care Homes; and 33% (5) occurred in Hospitals. There were no outbreaks caused by *Clostridium difficile* during this quarter. The institutional outbreak results are summarized in Table 1.

- 7% (1) of the outbreaks occurred in a community setting and is 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 follow-up by the relevant health unit and are not included with the numbers presented here.

**Table 1:  
Institutional Outbreaks Declared between July 1 and September 30, 2010**

<b>Outbreak Type</b>	<b>Outbreak Count</b>
<b>Enteric/Foodborne/Waterborne</b>	1
<b>Influenza</b>	0
<b>Other Respiratory/Direct Contact</b>	9
<b>Other</b>	4
<b>Clostridium difficile</b>	0
<b>Total</b>	14

**Table 2:  
Community Outbreaks Declared between July 1 and September 30, 2010**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>
WEDDING	Approximately 25 out of 75 guests became ill with gastrointestinal illness during and following a wedding dinner served at a local golf club. The conclusion of the investigation was that person-to-person transmission of illness likely occurred at the rehearsal dinner prior to the wedding.

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

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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 third quarter of 2010 and grouped together based on the Mandatory Program area each would fall into.

HEALTH HAZARD ABATEMENT	2009 (Q3)		2010 (Q3)	
	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	2	3	1
Bed bugs	108	21	184	71
Cockroaches	30	3	64	9
Other Insects	5	5	4	1
Diogenes (recluse response)	8	2	1	2
General sanitation	3	0	6	2
Housing	9	8	6	2
Marijuana Grow Operations	5	1	3	0
Mice	28	2	25	1
Mould	122	10	142	14
Odour	38	1	17	1
Other	23	12	35	9
Rats	18	0	23	3
Sewage	24	6	3	0
Sharps	18	2	17	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>				
Adulteration	40	2	24	0
Education	1	2	0	1
Emergency Fire/Flood	0	2	1	0
Garbage	7	0	8	0
General Food Inquiry	0	17	1	11
Other	23	13	43	18
Request For Inspection	2	36	31	0
Sanitation	20	0	22	1
Suspect Illness	6	1	6	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>WNV</b>				
Standing Water Complaints	77	0	62	0

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HEALTH HAZARD ABATEMENT	2009 (Q3)		2010 (Q3)	
	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOBACCO CONTROL under Smoke Free Ontario Act</b>				
Sales Related	21	6	8	3
Smoking Related	22	13	13	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>WATER QUALITY</b>				
General Inquiries	6	63	3	63
Adverse Water Quality Events <sup>1</sup>	23	0	20	0
Boil/Drinking Water Advisories	5	0	1	0
Recreational Water Postings	46	0	61	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>INFECTION CONTROL/INJURY PREVENTION</b>				
Potential Human Exposure To Rabies <sup>2</sup>	561	0	480	0
Rabies Vaccine Deliveries	80	0	38	0
Compliance With Childcare, Public Pool, Personal Service Setting Regulation/Guidelines	6	7	6	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>9</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.

<sup>2</sup> Complaint and inquiry data for rabies exposures were combined in 2009

**REPORTABLE DISEASE CASES REPORTED TO THE CITY OF HAMILTON, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2010**

*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 24/1/2011.*

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Confirmed/ probable case count</b>	<b>Suspect case count</b>	<b>Min - Max count per quarter 2005 - 2009</b>
Amebiasis <i>The case definition for reportable Amebiasis changed in Ontario effective April 28, 2009. Accrual of the 5-year history commences January 1, 2010.</i>	6	0	Unavailable
Anthrax	0	0	0 - 0
Botulism	0	0	0 - 0
Brucellosis	0	0	0 - 0
Campylobacter Enteritis	39	0	36 – 51
Chancroid	0	0	0 – 0
Chickenpox (Varicella), Laboratory or clinically confirmed; hospitalized or cases with complications	8	0	0 - 2
Chlamydial Infections	404	1	249 – 340
Cholera	0	0	0 – 0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	0	0	0 – 1
Cryptosporidiosis	3	0	3 – 10
Cyclosporiasis	3	0	0 – 1
Cytomegalovirus Infection, Congenital	0	0	0 – 0
Diphtheria	0	0	0 – 0
Encephalitis/Meningitis	9	0	2 – 11
Giardiasis	8	0	9 – 23
Gonorrhoea	36	1	30 – 55
Group A Streptococcal Disease, Invasive	7	0	4 – 7
Group B Streptococcal Disease, Neonatal	0	0	0 – 1
Haemophilus Influenzae B Disease, Invasive	0	0	0 – 0
Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	0	0	0 – 0
Hemorrhagic Fevers	0	0	0 – 1

Disease	Confirmed/ probable case count	Suspect case count	Min - Max count per quarter 2005 - 2009
Hepatitis A	0	0	1 – 7
Hepatitis B, Acute	1	0	0 – 2
Hepatitis C	60	0	47- 57
Hepatitis D	0	0	0 – 0
Herpes, Neonatal	0	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>	3	0	2 – 10
Influenza, Institutional Outbreak Cases	0	0	0 – 231
Influenza, Laboratory Confirmed Community Cases	1	0	0 – 57
Lassa Fever	0	0	0 – 0
Legionellosis <i>A change in testing occurred in September 2005 when the Ontario Public Health Laboratory began using the Binax NOW Legionella Urinary Antigen Test Kits. Accrual of the 5-year history commenced January 1, 2006.</i>	4	0	Unavailable
Leprosy	0	0	0 – 0
Listeriosis	2	0	0 – 4
Lyme Disease	0	0	1 – 3
Malaria	5	0	0 – 6
Measles	0	0	0 – 0
Meningococcal Disease, Invasive	1	0	0 – 2
Mumps	0	0	0 – 0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0 – 0
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0 – 1
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	4	0	1 – 7
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

Disease	Confirmed/ probable case count	Suspect case count	Min - Max count per quarter 2005 - 2009
Rubella	0	0	0 - 0
Rubella, Congenital	0	0	0 - 0
Salmonellosis	21	0	26 - 42
SARS	0	0	0 - 0
Shigellosis	0	0	0 - 4
Smallpox	0	0	0 - 0
Streptococcus Pneumoniae, Invasive	11	0	4 - 12
Syphilis, Early Congenital	0	0	Unavailable
Syphilis, Late Latent, Neurosyphilis	8	0	
Syphilis, Primary, Secondary, Early Latent	6	0	
Syphilis, Under Investigation/Unstaged	0	3	
<b>Syphilis, Total</b> <i>Due to delays in determining the staging of infectious versus non-infectious syphilis, the 5-year history is unavailable.</i>	14	3	Unavailable
Tetanus	0	0	0 - 1
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, 123 inactive TB cases were reported and include positive skin test results and individuals referred to Public Health for medical surveillance.</i>	3	1	2 - 13
Tularemia	0	0	0 - 0
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0 - 1
Verotoxin Producing E. Coli Including HUS	1	0	1 - 16
West Nile Virus Illness	0	0	0 - 3
Yellow Fever	0	0	0 - 0
Yersiniosis	0	0	0 - 7