



**Healthcare Provider Webinar**  
Middlesex and London Region  
June 6, 2023

# Welcome

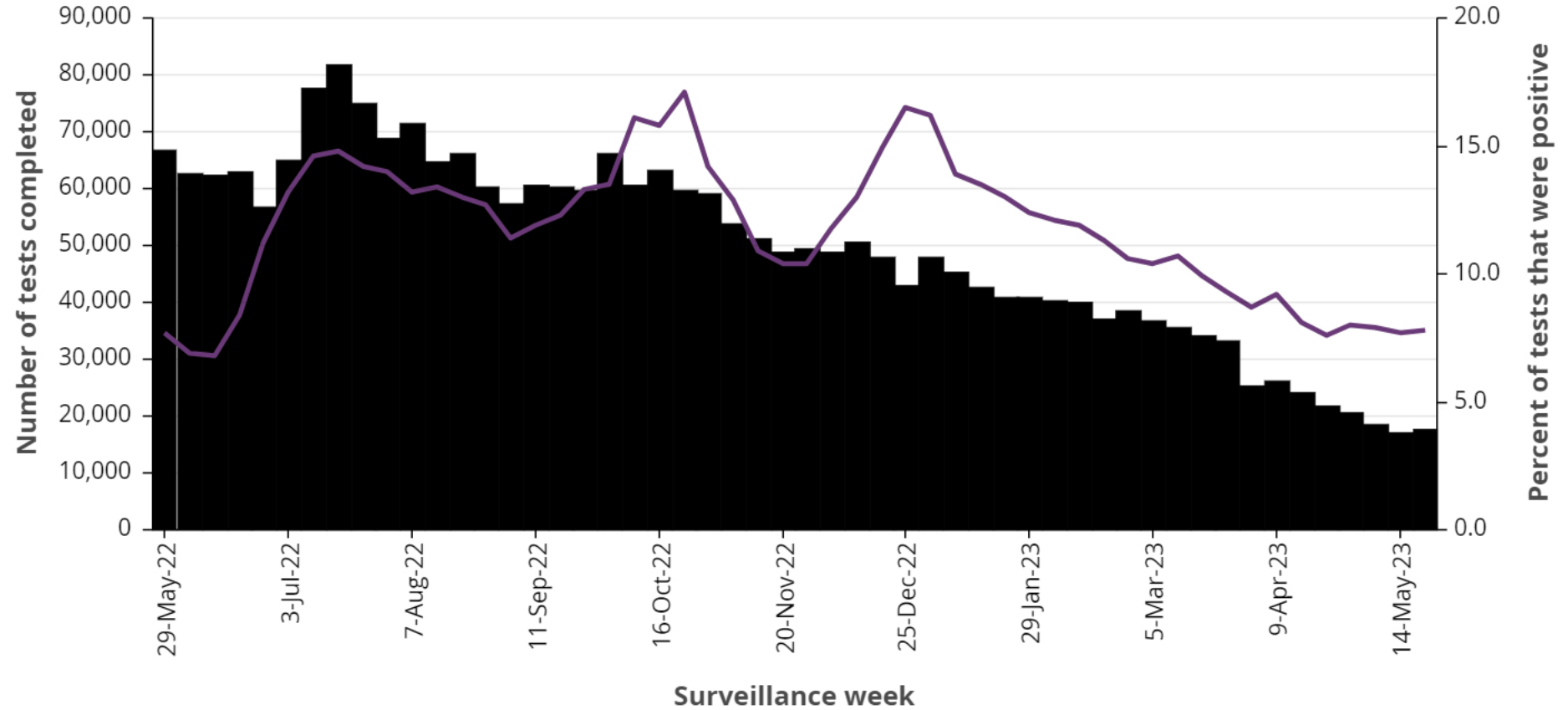
Presenter:

**Dr. Alex Summers**

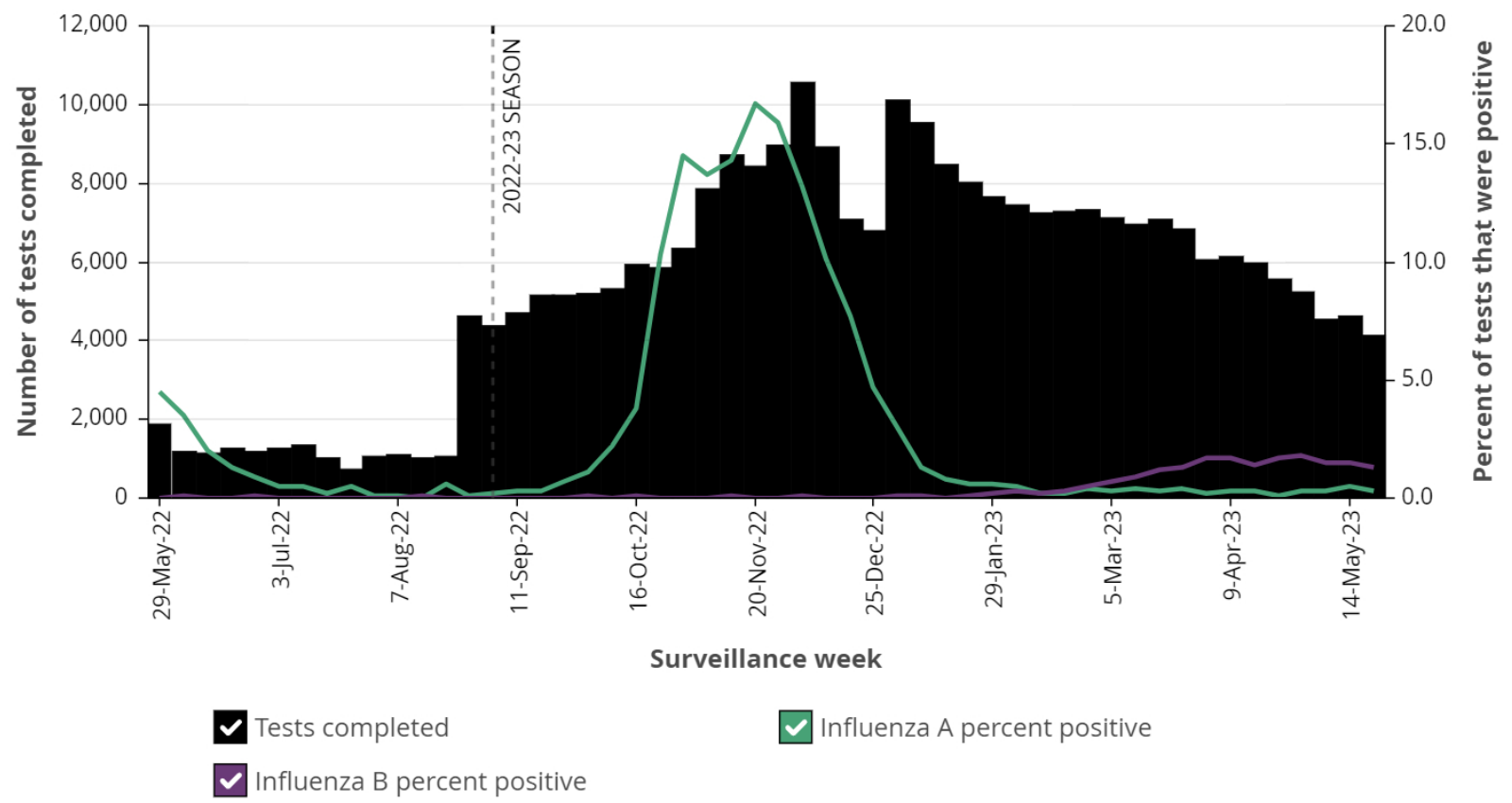
Medical Officer of Health  
Middlesex-London Health Unit

 @alexsummers4

## Number of COVID-19 tests completed and percent positive by surveillance week week May 29, 2022 to May 27, 2023



### Number of influenza tests performed and percent positive by surveillance week May 29, 2022 to May 27, 2023



Data source: Public Health Ontario- Ontario COVID-19 Data Tool, extracted 2023-06-06. Data current as of the end of day 2023-05-27. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/COVID-19-Data-Surveillance/COVID-19-Data-Tool?tab=overview>

# **Memo: Increased Invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease (iGAS) in Ontario**

- While iGAS remains relatively uncommon, increased cases have been reported recently in Ontario in all age groups.
- Healthcare providers are being asked to be on alert for signs and symptoms of iGAS in patients presenting with illness compatible with non-invasive GAS infections (e.g., strep throat, skin and soft tissue infections).
- Those at increased risk of iGAS include:
  - Infants and young children aged 0 to 4 years old,
  - People who are pregnant and postpartum,
  - Older adults
  - Those with immunocompromising conditions, chickenpox, and
  - People experiencing homelessness or who use injection drugs.

# **Memo: Increased Invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease (iGAS) in Ontario**

- There are several requests of HCPs within the Memo, including, but not limited to:
  - Provision of prompt assessment and treatment for patients with symptoms of non-invasive GAS
  - Being alert to potential complications of GAS infections and considering iGAS as a possible cause of severe illness, particularly in those at increased risk
  - Obtaining appropriate specimens if iGAS is suspected
  - Clinical management of severe iGAS disease
  - Patient and parents/guardians' education on signs and symptoms of serious bacterial infections and when to seek urgent medical attention
  - Support patients in keeping up-to-date on routine immunizations, particularly varicella
  - Notifying the health unit promptly about iGAS cases and clusters

We will keep you updated with any new developments.

# Child Growth Assessments

- As of 2020, the Health Unit no longer performs routine growth assessments for infants (age birth to 24 months) during home visits, unless concerns or red flags are present (i.e., challenges with feeding, decreased outputs, etc.).
- Clients are informed that since growth monitoring is routinely done by their primary healthcare provider at well baby visits, additional growth checks are generally not necessary.
- We discourage weighing infants outside of these times (unless red flags are present), as weighing too frequently can:
  - perpetuate weight preoccupation,
  - lead to unfounded worries about growth,
  - parents questioning their breastmilk supply,
  - unnecessary supplementation with formula, and
  - starting solid foods before baby is ready.

# Child Growth Assessments

- While growth is a key indicator of infant health and nutritional status, it is important to incorporate the overall developmental milestones into the assessment of young children and dialogue with parents.
- In addition to the Rourke Baby Record, the Look See by Nipissing District Development Screen can be provided to parents as a resource during discussions about child development.
- Links to the Look See and information on our website can be found in today's Webinar.





# Canada's new guidance on alcohol and health

- In January 2023, The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) released Canada's New Guidance on Alcohol and Health that replaced the 2011 Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines.
- Asking about alcohol use with all clients and incorporating the continuum of alcohol risk into routine visits, in an open and non-stigmatizing manner, can increase awareness and reduce the risks or potential health harms from drinking alcohol.
- For copies of the pictured infographic to provide or display in your office, you can email [healthcareproviders@mlhu.on.ca](mailto:healthcareproviders@mlhu.on.ca) with your office information and number of requested copies.



## **FYI: Summer 2023 Cold Chain Inspections**

- The Health Unit will be conducting its annual cold chain inspections between June and September 2023.
- This is a requirement by Ontario's Ministry of Health to conduct annual inspections where provincially funded vaccines are stored.
- A nurse from our Vaccine Preventable Disease team will be reaching out to locations with provincially funded vaccines as well as those participating in the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) 2023-2024) to schedule an inspection date in the coming months.

## NOTICE OF WEBINAR FREQUENCY:

In two weeks, on Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding our last webinar for the season.

We will have a special presentation provided by a member of our Vaccine Preventable Disease team to review common immunization record assessment and administration errors, how to avoid them, and what to do if they occur.

Great opportunity to come with any of your vaccine questions!

eNewsletters will continue twice a month through July and August.

Webinars will return in the fall.

# Questions?

- Ask using chat function now, or after the webinar at:  
[healthcareproviders@mlhu.on.ca](mailto:healthcareproviders@mlhu.on.ca)
- For urgent matters please call the Health Unit's main line at **519-663-5317**
- For more information  
[www.healthunit.com/healthcare-providers](http://www.healthunit.com/healthcare-providers)

