



**Healthcare Provider Outreach  
Webinar  
February 19, 2025**

# Welcome

Presenter:

**Dr. Janice Mok**

Middlesex-London Health Unit

February 19, 2025

Crop  
Rotation

# Outline

- Respiratory Surveillance Report
- Measles
- *Candida Auris (C. auris)*
- Gonorrhoea Guidance Update
- Immunization Related School Suspensions
  - Letters Sent out to Students
  - What does it mean for your practice?
- MLHU Dental Clinics
- eNewsletter and Webinars
- Questions

Crop  
Rotation



# Respiratory Surveillance Report

## Respiratory Transmission Risk Assessment

### Middlesex-London region is in a High Risk Period for Respiratory Illness

Indicator	Activity Level
1. New outbreaks (COVID-19, influenza and RSV) in health care facilities	High
2. New hospitalizations (COVID-19, influenza and RSV)	High
3a. Percent test positivity for COVID-19	Low
3b. Percent test positivity for influenza	High
4. Emergency department visits due to influenza-like illness syndrome	High

**Note:** Please refer to the *Technical notes* for the definition of activity level of each indicator.

**Data source:** Middlesex-London Health Unit – *Middlesex-London Respiratory Surveillance Report*, extracted 2025-02-19 Data current as of the end of day 2025-02-19 .

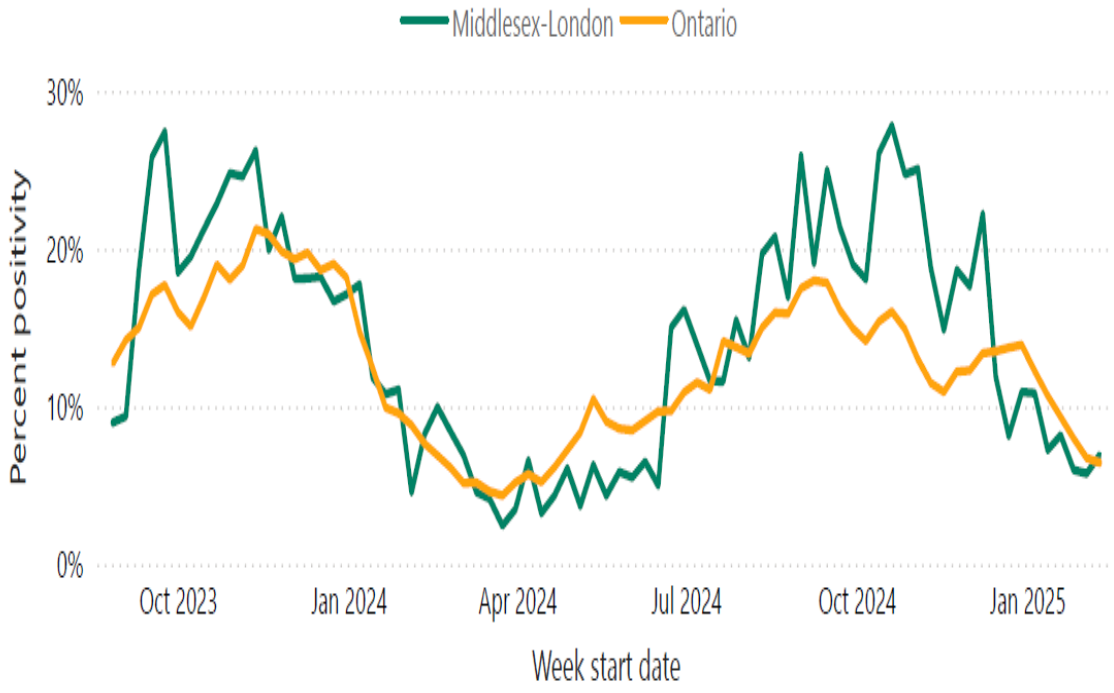
<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiODg3ZDIwOTctNzFmOS00MDczLWEwMDAtMDU1ZDk4OGZlMzgzliwidCI6ImRjNTYxMjk1LTdjYTktNDFhOS04M2JmLTUwODM0ZDZhOWQwZiJ9>

# COVID-19

## COVID-19 Summary

	Week 07 (Feb 09 - Feb 15, 2025)	Season to date (Aug 25, 2024 - Feb 15, 2025)	Trend (compared to previous week)
<b>Local metrics</b>	Deaths 0	Deaths 41	➔
	New outbreaks 2	Outbreaks 100	
	Percent positivity 6.9%	Percent positivity 16.0%	
<b>Provincial metrics</b>	Week 06 (Feb 02 - Feb 08, 2025) Provincial weekly indicator change: Lower		

Weekly test percent positivity of COVID-19, Middlesex-London and Ontario



Source: Visual Analytics Hub, Capacity Planning and Analytics Division, Ontario Ministry of Health.

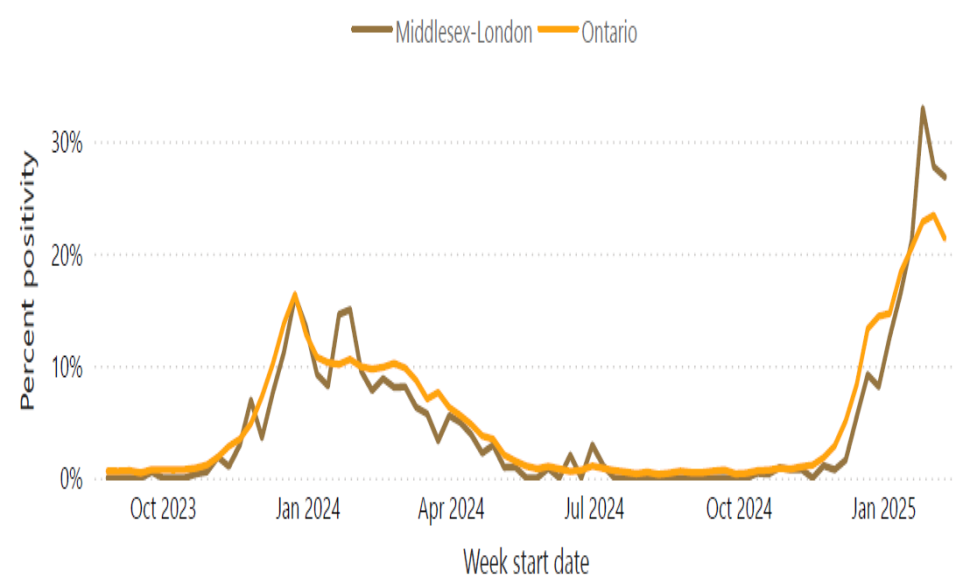
Data source: Middlesex-London Health Unit – Middlesex-London Respiratory Surveillance Report, extracted 2025-02-19. Data current as of the end of day 2025-02-19.  
<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiODg3ZDIwOTctNzFmOS00MDczLWUwMDAtMDU1ZDk4OGZlMzgzIiwidCI6ImRjNTYxMjk1LTdjYTktNDZhOS04M2JmLTUwODM0ZDZlOWQwZiJ9>

# Influenza

## Influenza Summary

Local metrics	Week 07 (Feb 09 - Feb 15, 2025)	Season to date (Aug 25, 2024 - Feb 15, 2025)	Trend (compared to previous week)  ➔
	Cases 178	Cases 860	
	Deaths 5	Deaths 13	
	New outbreaks 5	Outbreaks 16	
	Percent positivity 26.8%	Percent positivity 9.4%	
Provincial metrics	Week 06 (Feb 02 - Feb 08, 2025) Provincial weekly indicator change: Higher		

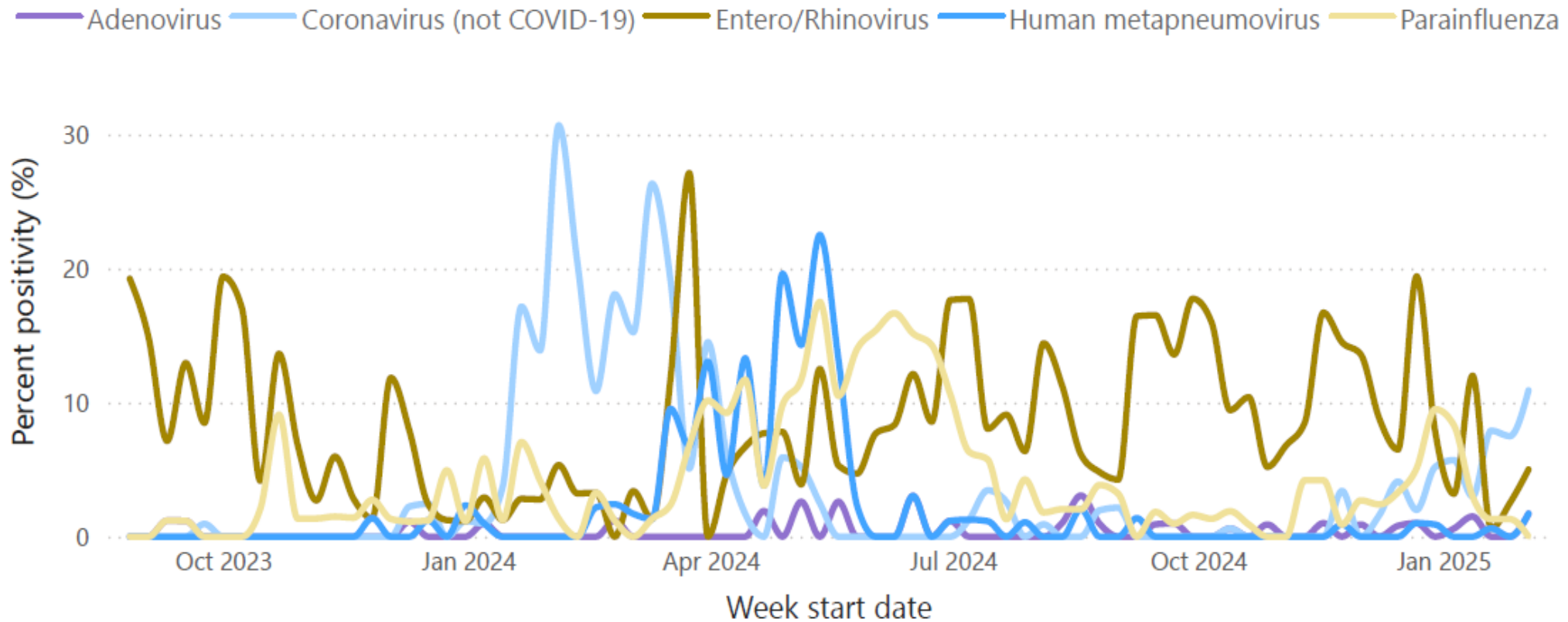
Weekly test percent positivity of Influenza, Middlesex-London and Ontario



Source: Visual Analytics Hub, Capacity Planning and Analytics Division, Ontario Ministry of Health.

# Other Respiratory Viruses

Weekly test percent positivity of select respiratory viruses, Middlesex-London







# Measles

# Measles

- Measles cases and new exposures continue to rise in [Grand Erie](#) and [Southwestern](#) Public Health Units
- To date, there have been no confirmed cases within the Middlesex-London region within the last 6 months
- Measles is a [Disease of Public Health Significance](#), and any suspected or confirmed cases should be reported immediately to public health
- Do **not** wait for laboratory confirmation

# Measles

- To report a confirmed or suspect case of measles, please use the [Reportable Disease Notification Form](#) or alternatively call 519-663-5317
- Suspected measles cases should be placed under airborne precautions and tested
- **Serology alone is unable to confirm current measles infection**
  - **A nasopharyngeal or throat PCR and a urine PCR are also required**
  - For more information, refer to specimen requirements in [Public Health Ontario Laboratory Test Information Sheet For Measles](#)
- If you are conducting any testing for measles, please write "STAT" on the requisition to ensure timely results

## Measles - Vaccinations

- In Ontario, 2 doses of measles –containing vaccine are routinely given at 1 year of age and 4-6 years of age. The second dose is recommended prior to school entry.
- Two doses are recommended for anyone born in or after 1970
- Individuals born before 1970 are generally considered to be immune due to high likelihood of having had measles

# Measles – Vaccinations Continued

In addition to routine immunizations, the following is **recommended for those at higher risk of exposure to measles**:

- Children 6 to 11 months of age who are in the setting of an outbreak-affected area or engaged in travel should be immunized with one dose of MMR.
- This guidance is a long-standing off-label vaccine recommendation from the National Advisory Council on Immunization (NACI).
- **Two additional doses** are still required on or after the first birthday and at least 4 weeks after the previous dose to ensure long lasting immunity to measles.
  - Infants 6 months of age and older may be vaccinated for this purpose with appropriate doses of Priorix or MMRII.
  - The Health Unit is only able to provide the vaccine brand that is received from the Ontario Government Pharmacy.

## Measles – Vaccinations Continued

- It is recommended that under-vaccinated adults who are at high risk of being exposed or exposing others receive a second dose of MMR vaccine.

These include:

- post-secondary students,
  - health care workers, and/or
  - individuals planning to travel to areas with increased measles activity.
- While adults born before 1970 are presumed to have had measles immunity, individuals who are travelling outside of Canada can receive one dose of MMR to ensure protection.

# Measles Cases

## Immunization of Individuals with Missing Immunization Records

- If a patient's immunization records are unavailable, immunization with measles-containing vaccine is preferable to ordering serological testing to determine immune status.
- This avoids the potential for false positive and/or false negative results, reduces the risk of missed opportunities for immunization and is consistent with advice from the CIG.
- It is safe to give additional doses of MMR vaccine to those who are already immune. (Cited from PHO: [Measles: Information for Health Care Providers](#))
- Vaccine can be ordered from the Health Unit through the [Public Health Ordering System](#) (PHOS).

Crop  
Rotation



## ***Candida Auris (C. auris)***



## *Candida Auris (C. auris)*

- a multi-drug-resistant fungal pathogen that can cause life-threatening infections, especially in immunocompromised individuals
- often spreads in healthcare settings and is capable of causing invasive disease with high mortality rates
- Persistent *C. auris* outbreaks in hospitals have been documented
- *C. auris* infections can be challenging to treat and are considered an emerging global health threat

## *Candida Auris (C. auris)*

- The Ontario Ministry of Health designated ***Candida Auris (C. auris)*** a **Disease of Public Health Significance** under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.
- The Health Unit's [Reportable Disease Notification Form](#) has been **updated** to include ***Candida Auris (C. auris)***. If you have the reportable disease notification form in your EMR, it will need to be updated.
- Notify the MLHU of all suspected or confirmed cases of *C. auris* infection.
  - Fax a completed [Reportable Disease Notification Form](#) to the Infectious Disease Team at 519-663-8241 or
  - Call 519- 663-5317 Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
  - Call 519-663-5317 (option 2) after hours, weekends, and holidays



# Gonorrhoea Guidance Update

# Gonorrhoea Guidance Update

The PHAC's revised treatment guidelines, key information, and resources for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (gonorrhoea) can be found in the [Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections](#).

## Specimen Collection:

To assess drug sensitivity, the guidelines recommend [specimen collection](#) for culture (when feasible), in addition to specimens for nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) for greater sensitivity in cases of:

- suspected treatment failure,
- infection acquired in areas with high rates of antimicrobial resistance,
- symptomatic patients,
- pelvic inflammatory disease (PID),
- pregnancy,
- sexual abuse/sexual assault, or
- an asymptomatic individual notified as a contact of a gonorrhoea case.

Crop  
Rotation

# Gonorrhoea Guidance Update

- Preferred treatment for uncomplicated gonococcal infections in adults and adolescents 10 years or older (including pregnant people):
  - *Ceftriaxone* [500 mg](#) IM as a single dose
  - Since 500 mg vials of *ceftriaxone* are not available in Canada, clinicians should continue to use 250 mg vials to be administered in two separate injections
- The 1 g of *azithromycin* PO is no longer routinely required

However, for patients for whom chlamydia infection has not been ruled out with a negative test, concurrent treatment for chlamydia should also be offered as per PHAC's [Chlamydia and LGV Guidance](#)

- Consult the guidelines for alternative treatment options if required

# Gonorrhea Guidance Update

- The guidelines recommend a [test of cure](#) for all positive sites in all cases.
- Refer to the [test of cure](#) guidelines as recommendations depend on timing after treatment completion and the patient's symptom status.

Healthcare providers can order antibiotics from the Middlesex-London Health Unit to treat sexually transmitted infections, including:

- *Ceftriaxone* for gonorrhea
- *Azithromycin* for chlamydia
- *Bicillin* for syphilis

Email [STImeds@mlhu.on.ca](mailto:STImeds@mlhu.on.ca) to place an order.

Crop  
Rotation



# Immunization Related to School Suspensions

# Immunization Related School Suspensions

Every school year, Ontario public health units review immunization records to ensure that students attending elementary and secondary schools are immunized in accordance with the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (RSO 1990)*.

Students attending schools in Middlesex-London will receive a letter if the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) is missing record of any mandatory immunizations. The letter asks students to take the following actions:

- Check their personal records for the missing immunizations,
- Receive any immunizations that they are missing, and
- Report missing immunizations to the MLHU.

Crop  
Rotation



# Immunization Related School Suspensions

Students who do not respond by the deadline outlined in their letter are at risk of school suspension.

- Schools in Middlesex-London have been assigned one of four suspension dates:
  - January 29, 2025
  - February 26, 2025
  - April 2, 2025, or
  - May 7, 2025

Crop  
Rotation

Students receive a first letter 2-3 months in advance and a final warning 4 weeks prior to their suspension date.

# Immunization Related School Suspensions

## What does this mean for patients in your practice?

Parents/guardians/students may:

- Request immunization records from you if they do not have a copy;
- Book an appointment to receive required vaccines.

Healthcare providers should monitor their immunization inventory and order more as needed.

If you have any questions, please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Team at 519-663-5317.

# Immunization Related School Suspensions

The chart includes guidance on mandatory immunizations (January 21, 2025, Newsletter)

Required Antigen	Information
Tetanus Diphtheria Pertussis Polio	<p>Primary series given before age 4 yrs (DTaP-IPV-Hib)</p> <p>Tdap-IPV given between ages 4-6 (before 7<sup>th</sup> birthday)</p> <p>DTaP-IPV-Hib should be used for catch-up for children under age 7 who have not received at least three doses</p> <p>Tdap given 10 years after Tdap-IPV, typically between 14-16 yrs of age</p> <p>IPV may be administered as a single-antigen vaccine if no other antigens are needed</p>
Measles Mumps Rubella	<p>One dose of MMR on/shortly after the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday</p> <p>Second dose between 4-6 yrs (can be given as MMRV; must be given before the 7<sup>th</sup> birthday)</p>
Varicella	<p>Required for students born in/after 2010</p> <p>One dose at 15 months of age</p> <p>Second dose between ages 4-6 (can be given as MMRV, must be given before the 7<sup>th</sup> birthday)*</p>
Meningococcal	<p>Men-C at age 1 (can be given as catch-up before Grade 7)</p> <p>Men-ACYW-135 at Grade 7 age (usually given at school).**</p>

\*MMRV can be given to children between the ages of 4-12 who require both MMR and Varicella. Outside of this age range, separate MMR and Varicella vaccines are needed (can be given on the same day).

\*\*Men-ACYW-135 (Menactra / Nimenrix) vaccine can be ordered from MLHU for eligible students who did not receive it at school. Healthcare providers are required to report administered doses of this vaccine to MLHU.

# Immunization Related School Suspensions

**Immunization services are available at MLHU for students under 18 years of age who:**

- do not have health care coverage (i.e., Ontario Health Card), OR
- arrived in Canada within the last 12 months and do not have a primary health care provider, OR
- missed receiving Grade 7 immunizations at school clinics (Hepatitis-B, HPV, and Men-ACYW-135)

Crop  
Rotation



**Guest Speaker:**

**Donna Kosmack, Manager**

**Oral Health and Clinical Support Services**

# MLHU Dental Clinics



355 Wellington St, London – Citi Plaza



51 Front St E, Strathroy-Shops on Sydenham



# MLHU Dentists



(Harrison, 2022)

## Dr. Shelly Stack

- Dr. Stack has a Bachelors of Science in Deaf Education and was a Nationally Certified Sign Language Interpreter for 25 yrs.
- Graduate of Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at Western University



(UofT, 2017)

## Dr. Madhuchhanda Bhattacharya

- Dr. B practiced as a Dentist in India, and is also a graduate of the University of Toronto
- Dr. B has won awards in India and brings great experience to our patients.



(Jones, 2021)

## Dr. Santosh Guttal

- Dr. Guttal practiced as a Dentist in India, and is also a graduate of Western University.



(Kosmack, 2023)

## Dr. Lucia Ambrochi

- Dr Ambrochi has over 30 years of experience
- Adjunct Clinical Professor in Dentistry, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry

# What does the OHCSS Team Do?

**Each year the MLHU OHCSS Team offers the following services to the Middlesex-London community:**

1. MLHU runs the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) in the Middlesex-London Region
2. MLHU sees children, who do not qualify for HSO and do not have dental insurance, for preventative services at no cost
3. Emergency Screening for HSO
4. School screening and surveillance
5. Daycare screenings and fluoride applications
6. Fluoridated water monitoring
7. Community and school presentations & health promotion activities

Crop  
Rotation



# The Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program

- Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/dental-care-low-income-seniors>
- Eligibility: 65+, no other insurance and an annual income of:
  - Single individual- \$25,000
  - Couple - \$41,500
- Funding is provided to the 29 public health units in Ontario as an annual budget.
- There is no fee guide, staff are paid a salary
- All services are free to patients except for a small co-pay for dentures (less than \$50).



(Polekhina, n.d.)

# Healthy Smiles Ontario

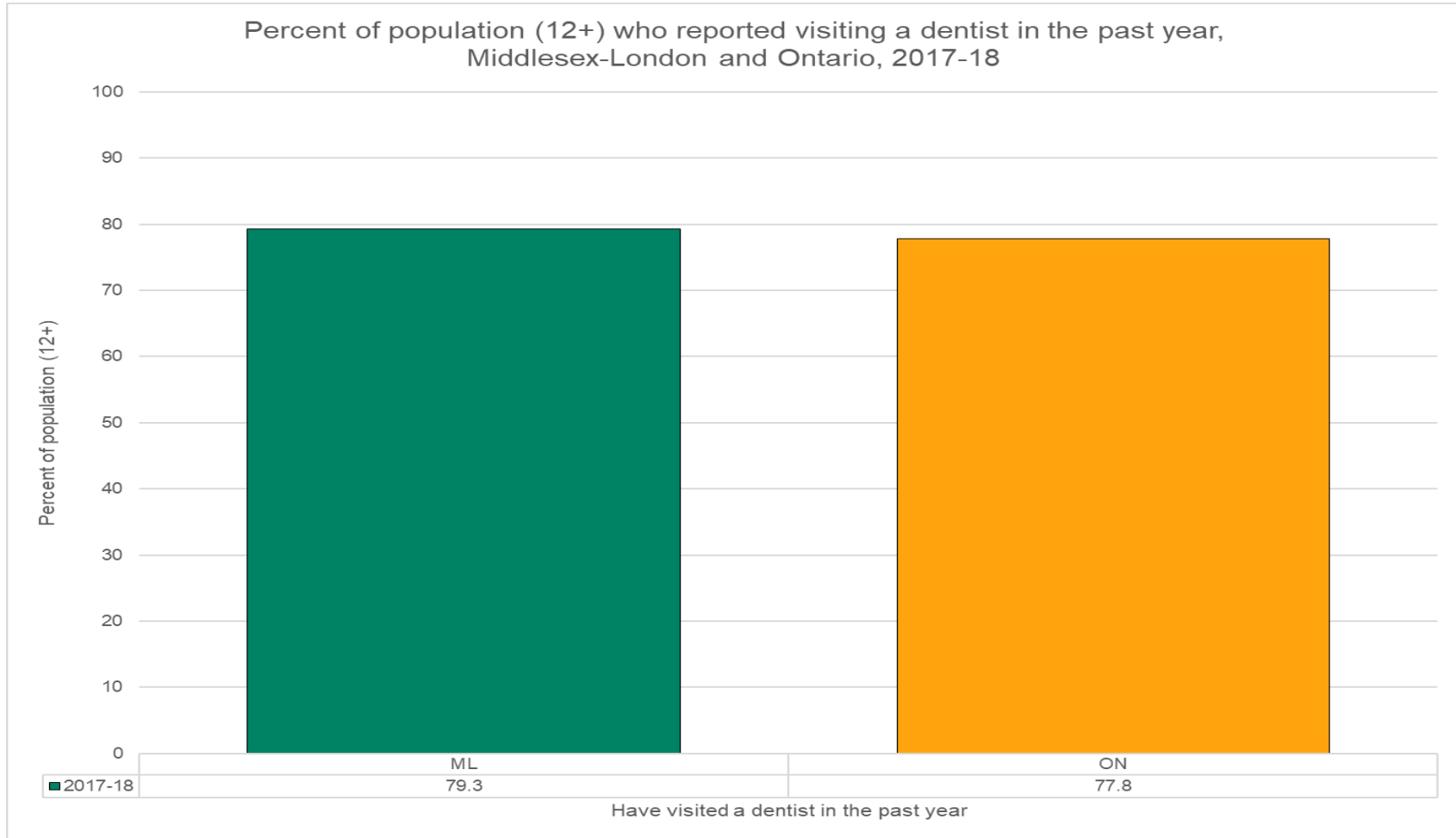
We also see **children under-18 yrs** of age for:

- Emergency screenings and enrollment into the Emergency stream of Healthy Smiles Ontario.
- Preventative services such as scaling, polishing, fluoride and sealants.



(Peel Public Health, 2022)

Crop  
Rotation



**Source:** Ontario Agency for Public Health (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: oral health snapshot: self-reported prevalence of having visited the dentist in the past year >> age-standardized rate (both sexes) >> 2017-18 [Internet]. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario c2023 [modified 2023 May 12; cited 2024 Feb 16]. Available from <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Behaviours/Oral-Health>

## Do you have patients who could benefit from our services?

Should you have patients who do not have a dentist and cannot afford to visit a dentist we would be happy to help. We can:

1. Explain options to people based on their age (HSO, OSDCP, CDCP etc).
2. Assist with filling out applications for HSO, OSDCP or CDCP
3. Book screenings for children and enroll them in the emergency stream of HSO if clinically eligible- they receive coverage same day.
4. Help people who do not qualify for government programs find help – The Wright Clinic!

# Dental Clinic – Promotion



**FREE dental care for low-income seniors** who live in London or Middlesex County

**Strathroy and London Clinics**  
Services offered through the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program! Criteria:

- ✓ 65 or older
- ✓ Resident of Middlesex-London
- ✓ Check our website for income eligibility for single individuals or couples
- ✓ No access to private dental insurance
- ✓ Seniors Dental Card

www.healthunit.com/ontario-seniors-dental-care

Have an Ontario Seniors Dental card?  
Book an appointment by calling 519-663-5317

No card? Register today at [www.ontario.ca/page/dental-care-seniors#section-2](http://www.ontario.ca/page/dental-care-seniors#section-2)

**Dental Health Matters**  
Get the care you need today!

**Strathroy and London Clinics**

**FREE dental care for children from low-income families** who live in London or Middlesex County

**Dental Health Matters**  
Get the care you need today!



**Strathroy and London Clinics**

**FREE dental care for low-income seniors**

Services offered through the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program! Criteria:

- ✓ 65 or older
- ✓ Resident of Middlesex-London
- ✓ Check our website for income eligibility for single individuals or couples
- ✓ No access to private dental insurance

www.healthunit.com/ontario-seniors-dental-care

Need help applying? Call us!

No card? Register today at [www.ontario.ca/page/dental-care-seniors#section-2](http://www.ontario.ca/page/dental-care-seniors#section-2)

Have an Ontario Seniors Dental card?  
Book an appointment by calling 519-663-5317

**Dental health matters.**  
Get the care you need today!

**Strathroy and London Clinics**

**FREE dental care for children from low-income families**

Healthy Smiles Ontario offers preventative services for residents of Ontario 17 years old and under who live in low-income households and need:

- ✓ Cleaning and polishing
- ✓ fluoride treatments
- ✓ dental sealants

Information: [www.healthunit.com/ontario-seniors-dental-care](http://www.healthunit.com/ontario-seniors-dental-care)

**Dental health matters.**  
Get the care you need today!





## eNewsletters and Webinars

# eNewsletters and Webinars



If you have a suggestion for an e-mail update, please share your ideas with us!



We appreciate hearing from you.



Current and Past Alerts and eNewsletters can be found @  
<https://www.healthunit.com/hcp-alerts-and-updates>

Rotation



You can contact us @ [healthcareproviders@mlhu.on.ca](mailto:healthcareproviders@mlhu.on.ca)



The next webinar will be on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 @12:15 p.m.

# Thank you for joining us!

## 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)

