

Infectious Illnesses – 2023 Year in Review



FEDERAL

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aug 3: The federal government is providing nearly \$1 million to the Manitoba Pork Council to help the industry prepare for the possibility that African swine fever will enter Canada. The Council will use the money to bolster efforts to control wild pigs, develop a response plan and promote industry awareness and adoption of infection control best practices.

Action Point: Use the [OHSI Infection Exposure Control Plan](#) template to prevent infectious illnesses at your workplace.

ALBERTA

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oct 10: Alberta kicked off its fall immunization program. Eligible residents can now book an appointment to receive free influenza and COVID-19 vaccines at an Alberta Health Services clinic or pharmacy in the province. The first appointments will take place on Oct. 16.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sep 18: The federal government will provide \$1.81 million over the next 3 years to help the British Columbia Poultry Association prepare the province's commercial poultry sector for potential future outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

MANITOBA

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aug 25: Manitoba Health reported the year's first confirmed human case of West Nile Virus—a person in their 40s living in the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority who is now in the hospital. Three other possible cases are under investigation. There were 7 confirmed cases of WNV in Manitoba in 2022, five of which required hospitalization.

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Sep 19: With flu season approaching, Manitoba began providing regular updates on the respiratory viruses expected to circulate in the province over the coming months, along with guidance on measures residents can take to safeguard themselves from infection.

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Oct 3: Nova Scotia residents aged 65 and older will soon be able to get the high-dose influenza vaccine for free at a local pharmacy or medical clinic. Free regular-dose flu shots and COVID-19 vaccines will also be available to those between the ages of 6 months and 64.

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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aug 10: The WCB published a [new guide](#) to help employers develop and implement a plan to prevent infections and communicable diseases in the workplace.

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QUÉBEC

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oct 10: Québec launched its free COVID-19 and influenza vaccination program for the general population. Vaccines in senior homes and other residential settings with vulnerable populations began on October 2.

SASKATCHEWAN

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oct 10: Saskatchewan began providing free flu and COVID-19 shots at public health clinics, pharmacies, and certain physician and nurse practitioner offices across the province. Residents can make an appointment to receive both vaccines at the same time.

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YUKON TERRITORY

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sep 28: Mirroring global health trends, syphilis is on the rise in Yukon. Last year, case rates for the disease in the territory were the highest since 1979. Congenital syphilis, which occurs when a pregnant person passes the infection on to

her child is also increasing, with at least one confirmed case in Yukon recorded so far this year.