

Proper hygiene key to reducing spread of bacteria

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town Hospital, but there has not been an outbreak, or a situation similar to that of the Markham-Stouffville hospital.

"There have been cases of Strep A at Georgetown Hospital," said Emma Murphy, interim manager of Communications and Public Relations with Halton Healthcare, in an emailed response. "However, it is important to note that we do not monitor or report all cases of Strep A that are encountered at our hospitals, as this infection can cause a wide range of conditions."

Four of these cases were in Burlington, one in Halton Hills, one in Milton and two in Oakville. Last year Halton public health received 16 reports of the infection, one fatal.

None of the cases in Halton have been related to new mothers.

Group A streptococcus can manifest itself in the form of soft tissue infections or toxic shock syndrome.

Severe cases can result in amputations, or death.

Only severe forms of Group A strep are reported to the public health depart-

ment.

Cases that classify an infection as clinically severe are those associated with streptococcal toxic shock syndrome, soft tissue infections, meningitis or death.

In Peel Region there have been over 60 reported cases and six deaths since January 2017.

There has been one fatal case in Peel this year.

Need-to-know facts about strep A

Halton Region public health says that symptoms of a strep A infection can start one to three days after being exposed to an infected person.

Invasive group A strep is rare, those at risk for infection have compromised immune systems.

Individuals with cancer, diabetes, heart disease and HIV are among the most susceptible, as well as children.

Proper hygiene is key to reducing the spread of the bacteria. Public health recommends hand washing, covering your mouth or nose when sneezing or coughing as well as refraining from sharing drinks and cutlery.

The infection is treated with antibiotics. Those with the infection are not contagious after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.

Road Closure

Alton Village Queen Street East and Bridge

March 26–December 21

All Businesses Open

Queen Street East—east of Main Street to Catherine Street—closed for road reconstruction and bridge and culvert replacement.

Detour route:

- Watch for Alton Village detour signs
- Check more detailed detour map at peelregion.ca/pw/construction/cal Queen Street East (Alton Village)



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