

Bulletin Type: **General Update**

Subject: Update on invasive Group A Streptococcus outbreak at Seaton House

Bulletin: Dear Shelter Providers,

Shelter, Support and Housing Administration is circulating this bulletin on behalf of Toronto Public Health. The information re-affirms the importance of handwashing and adherence to good hygiene practices in all the work that we do. For further information please call the Toronto Public Health Control of Infectious Disease program at 416-338-7790 during weekdays (8:30 am to 4:30 pm).

March 7, 2018 Update on invasive Group A Streptococcus outbreak at Seaton House

Toronto Public Health (TPH) has recently been informed of new cases of invasive Group A Streptococcus (iGAS) among residents of Seaton House. While we are currently aware of only four new cases of iGAS at Seaton House, given the type of disease and our past experiences with the burden of this disease among vulnerable populations, we have determined that further public health action is needed and we have declared an outbreak on the 3rd and 4th floors. There is no risk to the general population.

GAS are bacteria found in the nose, throat and/or on the skin of healthy people. They are spread through direct contact with secretions from the nose or throat of people who are infected or through contact with infected wounds or sores on the skin. Those who are ill with GAS are the most likely to spread it to others.

GAS can spread more easily among individuals living in close contact which makes it easier to transmit the bacteria from person to person. Further factors that may affect the severity of infection caused by this bacteria among Seaton House clients may include:

- Clients are more commonly in poor health due to chronic diseases including diabetes and diseases of the heart, lung and liver.
- Clients generally do not seek medical attention when initial symptoms of infection occur and as a result, their infections may be more serious when they do seek medical care.

TPH continues to work closely with Seaton House, the City's Shelter,

Support & Housing Administration (SSHA) Division and other city partners, health care organizations in the community and experts in response to this iGAS outbreak on the 3rd and 4th floors of Seaton House.

For further information please call the Toronto Public Health Control of Infectious Disease program at 416-338-7790 during weekdays (8:30 am to 4:30 pm).

Sincerely,

Dr. Allison Chris
Associate Medical Officer of Health
Toronto Public Health

Resources:

**Contact
Information:**

Toronto Public Health Control of Infectious Disease program – 416-338-7790 during the week from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.