

MOH Report Highlights June 2026

Medical Officer of Health Update

Warm weather is here, graduation celebrations are underway, and summer events are beginning to fill the calendar. Summer has arrived in Nipissing and Parry Sound, bringing opportunities to enjoy our region's lakes, parks, trails, and other popular attractions. We are fortunate to call this remarkable area home.

As residents and visitors make the most of the season, the Health Unit has been hard at work helping to ensure a safe and healthy summer for everyone. Seasonal health risks can arise from many sources, including the food we eat, the water we drink and swim in, the wildlife we encounter, and changing environmental conditions.

This report highlights the many ways the Health Unit is working to reduce summer health risks, from ticks and extreme heat to recreational water, food trucks, blastomycosis, animal bites, poor air quality, blue-green algae blooms, legionella, and small drinking water systems.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer season!

Lyme Disease

Following a significant increase in Lyme Disease cases in 2025, the Health Unit conducted a public awareness campaign during Tick Awareness month in May 2026. The campaign generated strong engagement, particularly among young adults, and promoted measures to reduce the risk of tick-borne diseases.

Oral Health

The Oral Health program partnered with the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) and the Clinical Access Mobile Partnership (CAMP) van to provide on-site oral health screenings and navigation services for DNSSAB clients experiencing barriers to dental care.

Vaccine Preventable Disease

The Health Unit has seen a significant increase in Grade 7 and 8 students receiving optional Hepatitis B and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) during the 2025-2026 school year. Increased uptake is believed to be associated with the introduction of electronic consent forms and the spring HPV awareness campaign.

Healthy Families

The Basics Nipissing–Parry Sound is a community-wide initiative that promotes nurturing parent–child relationships and healthy childhood development. The Basics

Insights, a free weekly text messaging program, provides practical and evidence-informed parenting tips to support positive parent–child interactions. In 2025, 201 local families enrolled in the program. Quarterly evaluation surveys showed strong parent satisfaction, with families reporting increased awareness of The Basics, more conversations about the principles, and greater use of the strategies in daily caregiving routines.

Community Drug Alert

The Health Unit issued a Community Drug Alert on April 7, 2026, followed by a second extension on May 5 that remained in effect until May 22, 2026. The alert was issued in response to an increase in locally reported drug poisonings which reached levels not seen since September 2020.

Quality Assurance

The Health Unit has updated its process for managing formal public complaints by integrating complaint reporting into the Quality Issue Reporting (QIR) system. This change supports a more consistent approach to documenting, tracking, monitoring, and resolving complaints, while strengthening ongoing quality improvement efforts. Public complaint submissions can be made through the online form available on the Health Unit's Contact Us webpage.