



# PUBLIC HEALTH NOTES

MARCH 2020 VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

## *RCDHU Sexual Health Voucher Program*

Making contraception affordable and easy to obtain



Increasing access to family planning and sexual health services can improve public health outcomes and contribute directly to cost savings for both users and health systems. In order to increase utilisation of hormonal contraceptive among low-income populations, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) has, for many years, been offering the Sexual Health Voucher Program.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

RCDHU Sexual Health Voucher Program provides access to hormonal contraceptives at reduced cost or no cost by providing clients with a coupon for their pharmacies. Once issued, the voucher is valid for one year. Hormonal contraceptives included in the program are:

- oral contraceptive pill;
- contraceptive patch;
- vaginal ring;
- emergency contraception;
- injectable contraception; and
- intrauterine contraception.

**To note:** With respect to the intrauterine device, financial assistance up to 200\$ can be provided.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

RCDHU Sexual Health Voucher program is available for clients in financial need (e.g.: students, clients experiencing financial hardship, clients without access to a drug plan, etc.).

### WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS (HCP)?

1. Assess client's need to obtain contraceptives through the Sexual Health Voucher Program.
2. Ensure that contraceptive prescription contains the following items:
  - client's name;
  - client's date of birth;
  - type of contraceptive;
  - number of refills;
  - name of prescriber;
  - date prescription was written; and
  - name of pharmacy, if known.
3. Provide client with prescription and advise them to attend one of our Sexual Health Clinics offered throughout the county (see 2nd page) or to call an RCDHU Sexual Health Nurse at 613-735-8654 ext. 555.

RCDHU is committed to increasing access to family planning and sexual health services within the community and is encouraging HCP to promote those services. For additional information on the Voucher Program or any other sexual health services, please contact RCDHU Sexual Health program at 613-735-8654, ext. 555.

# *RCDHU Sexual Health Clinics*

## Walk-In

RCDHU offers free "Walk-In" Sexual Health Clinics in Pembroke, Renfrew, Arnprior and Barry's Bay. No appointment required.

Clients can come to one of our clinics and talk to a Public Health Nurse to get the following services:

- sexually transmitted infections (STIs) testing and free treatment\*;
- low cost or free birth control with a doctor's prescription;
- free condoms;
- information about STIs;
- pregnancy testing; and
- counselling about relationships and sexual decision-making.

\*Lab requisitions provided for uncomplicated STIs i.e. chlamydia and gonorrhoea.

### **PEMBROKE (ALGONQUIN COLLEGE)**

Every Wednesday  
From 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
1 College Way, Room 127

### **ARNPRIOR**

2nd and 4th Fridays  
From 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
346 John Street North, Suite 157

### **RENFREW (RCDHU)**

2nd and 4th Fridays  
From 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.  
450 O'Brien Street, Suite 106

### **BARRY'S BAY**

1st and 3rd Fridays  
From 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
21 St. Francis Memorial Drive