

TO: Halton Physicians

Medical Chiefs of Staff: Joseph Brant Hospital, Halton Healthcare (Oakville, Milton and Georgetown Hospitals)  
Chairs of: Family Practice, Paediatrics, Internal Medicine, Emergency, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Surgery  
Chief of Laboratory Services and Infection Control Practitioners

POST IN: Emergency Department and Physicians Lounge

FROM: Dr. Julie Emili, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: October 25, 2018

**RE: Acute flaccid paralysis**

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There has been an increase in acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) in children under 18 years of age in the United States with no known cause, but some cases have tested positive for non-polio enteroviruses, particularly enterovirus-A71 (EV-A71).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been working with health care providers to investigate an increase in reports of suspected and confirmed cases of AFM in children under 18 years of age in the United States.

As of October 16, 2018, there have been 62 confirmed cases this year in 22 states. At this point, the cause of most cases of AFM is unknown; however, patients' symptoms are similar to complications of infection from viruses such as enteroviruses, poliovirus, adenovirus and West Nile virus.

#### **Current Ontario situation**

Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP): In the past few days, Public Health Ontario (PHO) has received an increasing number of reports of cases being investigated as AFP. These reports were received following the release of information regarding AFM in the United States and the communication to pediatricians in Ontario regarding case management and AFP reporting. As of October 18, 2018, there have been six recent reports of children under investigation for AFP from three health units, one of whom tested positive for EV-D68.

#### **Recommendations and resources**

\* Acute flaccid paralysis: AFP is a reportable disease of public health significance in Ontario for children less than 15 years of age. Information on reporting of AFP can be found in Appendix A and Appendix B of the Infectious Diseases Protocols [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph\\_standards/docs/afp\\_chapter.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/afp_chapter.pdf).

\*Enterovirus testing can be requested from Public Health Ontario Lab (PHOL) for those with severe respiratory illness or acute neurologic conditions such as AFP from respiratory specimens, cerebral spinal fluid, stool and other specimens.

1. Requesting health care providers ordering enterovirus testing to complete a Clinical Summary Form [http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/PHO\\_EVD68\\_Patient\\_Clinical\\_Summary\\_Form.pdf](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/PHO_EVD68_Patient_Clinical_Summary_Form.pdf) along with the General Test Requisition Form [http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/General\\_test\\_fillable\\_requisition.pdf](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/General_test_fillable_requisition.pdf).
2. PHO [EV-D68 webpage](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/Pages/Enterovirus-D68.aspx) (<http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/Pages/Enterovirus-D68.aspx>) with general information on the virus and how to contact the laboratories when submitting specimens for testing.

Please report all suspected or confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (formerly Reportable Diseases) to the Halton Region Health Department as soon as possible. Diseases marked \* should be reported immediately by telephone (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or fax (Mon-Fri, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm only). Other diseases can be reported the next working day. Call 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866. For general information, please visit [halton.ca](http://halton.ca).

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