

HALTON REGION HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
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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. Hamidah Meghani, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: August 9, 2019

**RE: Rabies Vaccine and Immunoglobulin Shortages**

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Please be advised that the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) has notified public health units that due to high demand over the past month, the provincial supply of rabies vaccine and rabies immunoglobulin at the Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Service (OGPMSS) is lower than usual and may not be fully replenished before November 2019.

The Ministry will be monitoring inventory of rabies vaccine and rabies immunoglobulin across the province and providing pre-approval for every order submitted. The Ministry is requesting all health units to be judicious in using the vaccine and minimize wastage.

Halton Region Health Department has also recently confirmed two cases of rabies in bats and as such, there may be an increased number of patients enquiring about rabies. Halton Region Health Department is requesting all health care providers to conduct thorough risk assessments for all reported exposures as outlined in the [Management of Potential Rabies Exposures Guideline 2019](#) to support the appropriate and judicious use of rabies biologics.

As per the [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#), all health care professionals are required to report any information concerning an animal bite or other animal contact that may result in rabies, to the Halton Region Health Department as soon as possible by calling 311.

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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