

## HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Emergency Departments, Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Patrick Galange, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: September 17, 2025

RE: Patients receiving injectable local anesthetic between 2019 and 2025 at Burlington clinic may be at risk due to IPAC lapse

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### QUICK FACTS

- Halton Region Public Health has identified an infection prevention and control (IPAC) lapse at **Halton Family Health Centre (HFHC), Walk-in Clinic** located at 2951 Walkers Line, Burlington.
- Although the risk of disease transmission is considered low, Halton Region Public Health is advising patients who received local anesthetic injections at HFHC walk-in clinic between **January 1, 2019, and July 17, 2025** to consult their healthcare provider or visit a walk-in clinic to discuss testing for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV.

### KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- The IPAC lapse involved improper practices related to the use of multidose vials, which may have resulted in the contamination of local injectable anesthetic medication with blood. Consequently, patients who received procedures involving local anesthetics may have been exposed to blood borne pathogens.
- Procedures that commonly involve local injectable anesthetics include, but are not limited to:
  - Laceration repairs
  - Intrauterine device (IUD) insertions
  - Endometrial biopsies
  - Skin biopsies
  - Partial or complete nail resections
  - Joint injections or aspirations
- If your patient did **not** receive any procedures requiring local injectable anesthetics at this clinic during the identified period, **no further action is required**.
- Improper use of multidose vials for injectable medications increases the risk of transmission of blood-borne pathogens such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

- To facilitate testing, please use the [pre-populated General Test Requisition form](#) provided by the patient and available to download at Halton.ca. Please ensure that you include the IPAC Investigation Number: **HAL-2025-00002**.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON EXPOSURE TIMEFRAME

<u>Date of last procedure</u>	<u>When to test</u>	<u>What to test</u>
Over 6 months ago	Now only	HIV, HBV*, HCV
Between 3-6 months ago	Now and	HIV, HBV*, HCV
	6 months from last procedure	HBV*, HCV
Less than 3 months ago	Now and	HIV, HBV*, HCV
	3 months from last procedure and	HIV, HBV*, HCV
	6 months from last procedure	HBV*, HCV

\*HBV testing is not indicated if the patient has documented serological immunity (anti-HBs titre of at least 10 mIU/mL)

- Healthcare providers are encouraged to use this opportunity to recommend hepatitis B vaccination for any patients who are eligible and not currently immunized.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Test Information Sheets from PHO for HIV, HBV and HCV serology

- HIV:** [www.publichealthontario.ca/HIVDiagSero](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/HIVDiagSero)
- HBV:** [www.publichealthontario.ca/HepBSero](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/HepBSero)
- HCV:** [www.publichealthontario.ca/HepCDS](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/HepCDS)

For further information, please visit the [IPAC Lapse Disclosure](#) page on halton.ca or contact Halton Region Public Health at 905-825-6000 or dial 311.

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL [DOCTORS@HALTON.CA](mailto:DOCTORS@HALTON.CA).