

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

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

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

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

DATE: February 3, 2025

RE: Rabies Immunoglobulin and Vaccine Communication to Providers

While there have been reports of a rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (rPEP) shortage in other jurisdictions, local product availability is unaffected. We would like to notify providers that there is currently a sufficient supply of rabies immunoglobulin and vaccine available in our community.

However, to prevent local shortages, it is essential that a thorough risk assessment in consultation with Halton Region Public Health be conducted for individuals potentially exposed to rabies virus **prior** to initiating rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. Guidance regarding rabies post-exposure prophylaxis risk assessments is available in the [Management of Potential Rabies Exposures Guideline](#).

Additionally, for guidance on managing international rabies exposures (such as a patient exposed abroad and rabies post-exposure prophylaxis started outside Canada), consider referring to the PHO technical brief titled "[Management of Rabies Post-exposure Prophylaxis and Assessment of Vaccine Series Initiated Outside of Canada](#)."

Please continue to exercise careful judgment in determining the need for rPEP based on risk factors and clinical presentation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Call 311 AND fax a completed [Rabies Exposure Reporting Form](#) to 905-825-8797 – 24/7, 365 days a year.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Rabies – Communicable Diseases Information for Physicians](#), Halton Region Public Health
- [Rabies Information for Halton Residents](#), Halton Region Public Health
- Video "[Administering Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis](#)"

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