

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Chief Medical Officer of Health

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Toronto ON M7A 1R3Téléphone: (416) 212-3831
Télécopieur: (416) 325-8412**October 2, 2014****MEMORANDUM****TO:** Medical officers of health, health workers, health sector employers and other health system partners**RE:** Enterovirus D68 and Acute Flaccid Paralysis

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care continues to collaborate with the Public Health Agency of Canada, Public Health Ontario (PHO), Ministry of Labour and other health system partners to monitor the evolving Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) situation across North America and take measures to ensure optimal health system response.

Since September 17, 2014, more than 300 specimens from Ontario that have been submitted to the National Microbiology Laboratory for testing, and more than 30 have been positive for EV-D68. Enteroviruses are very common viruses, and it is not uncommon to see an increase in enterovirus infections in the fall. Among laboratory confirmed cases of EV-D68, several cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) are being investigated in the past weeks in Ontario.

In Ontario, as of December 2013, Acute Flaccid Paralysis is a reportable disease and health care providers should report cases to their local Medical Officer of Health.

Today, the protocol related to the reporting of AFP was changed to delete the reference to persons less than 15 years of age. Cases are now reportable regardless of age.

The AFP case report form is available at
www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/PHO_AFP_Case_Report_Form.doc

Please continue to use your established communication channels to share this reporting responsibility with health care providers, with focus on *acute care facilities*, and other health workers in your networks and organizations. It is important to emphasize that AFP cases should be tested for EV-D68.

PHO has developed guidance for public health units, health workers and health sector employers. Please visit www.publichealthontario.ca/EV-D68 for information on laboratory testing, AFP case reporting and infection prevention and control measures. Clinical information, including symptoms, should be included in the [laboratory test requisition form](#). In addition, when EV-D68 testing is ordered, clinicians will be requested to complete a patient clinical summary form, which will be available shortly on the PHO web page. The PHO website will be continuously updated as new information becomes available and I encourage health system partners to visit it regularly.

As always, the ministry is available to support you during urgent situations that may arise. You can contact the ministry on a 24/7 basis through the Health Care Provider Hotline at 1-866-212-2272.

Original Signed by

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Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health

Attachment