

Surveillance and Laboratory Testing for Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68)

Attention: Physicians, Emergency Departments, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Family Health Teams, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Professionals, NSM LHIN, Central LHIN, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services, Medavie EMS Ontario – Muskoka, Rama Mnjikaning EMS, Midwives

Date: September 23, 2015

The purpose of this HealthFax is to provide surveillance and laboratory testing information on Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) for the 2015-2016 respiratory season.

Background:

In early fall 2014, there was an increase of EV-D68 infections in North America, with some patients presenting with severe respiratory symptoms. **Rare cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) were also reported that were likely related to EV-D68 infection.** In Ontario, the total number of respiratory specimens tested for EV-D68 at Public Health Ontario (PHO) in 2014 was 1,121, and of these 100 (8.9%) tested positive for the virus. In cases where AFP was documented, two were confirmed for EV-D68, both in children less than 15 years of age.

Laboratory testing:

As the 2015-2016 respiratory season approaches, we want to share with you some proactive planning that has been done to monitor transmission and potential severity of infection associated with EV-D68, in any age group, should the virus circulate this season:

- Public Health Ontario (PHO) has established linkages with key hospitals and has requested to be notified when EV-D68 is diagnosed;
- PHO Laboratories started testing for EV-D68 on August 3, 2015. Health care providers (HCPs) ordering enterovirus/EV-D68 testing are required to complete a [Clinical Summary Form](#) and a [General Test Requisition Form](#);
- PHO has also updated their [EV-D68 webpage](#) with general information on the virus and how to contact the laboratories when submitting specimens for EV-D68 testing.

The forms and testing information referenced in this document can be accessed here:

PHOL General Test Requisition Form:

http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/General_test_fillable_requisition.pdf

Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) Patient Clinical Summary Form:

http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/PHO_EVD68_Patient_Clinical_Summary_Form.pdf

Information on EV-D68 is available on the Public Health Ontario website:

<http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/Pages/Enterovirus-D68.aspx>

Please refer to the [HealthFax](#) issued on October 15, 2014 for more EV-D68 information.

AFP is a reportable condition in Ontario. Any suspect or confirmed cases of AFP must be immediately reported to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), Communicable Disease (CD) Team at (705)721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 extension 8809 or 1-888-225-7851 after hours.