

## 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, Midwives

**Date:** October 5, 2016

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The purpose of this HealthFAX is to provide surveillance and laboratory testing information on Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) for the 2016-2017 respiratory season.

### **Background:**

In early fall of 2014, there was an increase of enterovirus D68 (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 may have been related to EV-D68 infection. At that time, enhanced laboratory testing and surveillance was initiated to further understand the potential for severe outcomes.

The total number of patients with respiratory specimens tested for EV-D68 at the Public Health Ontario (PHO) Laboratory in 2014 was 907, and of these, 153 (16.9%) tested positive for the virus. Of cases where AFP was documented and entered into iPHIS in 2014, 2 had EV-D68 identified in respiratory specimens, both in children less than 15 years of age. No requests for EV-D68 testing were received by the PHO Laboratory in 2015.

**Over the past month, other provinces have informed Ontario of a few EV-D68 positive laboratory findings in children, including a small number with neurologic manifestations. Currently there is emerging evidence in Ontario of pediatric EV-D68 cases; thus, the continued circulating and identification of EV-D68 cases occurring in Ontario is high.**

### **Laboratory testing:**

As the 2016-2017 respiratory season approaches, we want to share with you actions that will be taken in Ontario to monitor the transmission and potential severity of infection associated with EV-D68:

- Public Health Ontario (PHO) has established linkages with key hospitals and has requested to be notified when EV-D68 is diagnosed;
- Health care providers (HCPs) ordering enterovirus/EV-D68 testing are being asked to complete a [Clinical Summary Form](#) and a [General Test Requisition Form](#);
- PHO will be updating their [EV-D68 webpage](#) with general information on the virus and how to contact the laboratories when submitting specimens for EV-D68 testing.
- Please notify the SMDHU CD Team to report should a patient with EV-D68 present with AFP or unusual clinical manifestations requiring hospitalization.

**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](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](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>

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.