

Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) and Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)

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: October 7, 2014

Since September 17, 2014, more than 300 specimens from Ontario that have been submitted to the National Microbiology Laboratory for testing. 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 must report cases to their local Medical Officer of Health.

On October 2, 2014, the protocol related to the reporting of AFP was changed to delete the reference to persons less than 15 years of age. All cases are now reportable, regardless of age.

The family of enteroviruses include types of viruses known to cause neurologic problems such as muscle weakness and acute flaccid paralysis. Rarely, EV-D68 has been identified in people who develop muscle weakness or acute flaccid paralysis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently investigating a small cluster of children hospitalized in Colorado who were identified since early August with acute neurologic illness. EV-D68 has been identified in some of the children. Most of the children had a respiratory illness with fever in the two weeks before the onset of their neurologic symptoms. A few children with acute muscle weakness or paralysis who have EV-D68 found in respiratory specimens have also been identified in other US States and Canada, including Ontario. The connection between the virus and the neurological symptoms is uncertain and is under investigation.

Case of Acute Flaccid Paralysis should be tested for Enterovirus D68.

Public Health Ontario (PHO) has developed guidance for public health units, health workers and health sector employers. Please visit <http://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 health system partners are encouraged to visit it regularly.

The AFP case report form is available at:

www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/PHO_AFP_Case_Report_Form.doc

Any suspect or confirmed cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis must be immediately reported to Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Communicable Disease Team at (705)721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 extension 8809 or 1-888-225-7851 after hours.