

ALERT:

Acute Flaccid Paralysis and Enterovirus D68

October 6, 2014



To all Healthcare Providers in Peterborough City & County:

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. AFP cases should be tested for EV-D68.

In Ontario, as of December 2013, Acute Flaccid Paralysis is a reportable disease and healthcare 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

and on the Health Unit's website www.pcchu.ca under "For Professionals/Health Professionals/Alerts".

PHO has developed guidance for health workers and health sector employers. Please visit www.publichealthontario.ca 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.

For more information, call Infectious Disease Nurses at (705)743-1000.