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- **Mumps Outbreak in Oxford County**

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Mumps Outbreak in Oxford County

As of August 11, 2008, 16 outbreak associated cases of mumps have been reported in Oxford County. Fifteen of these cases are epidemiologically linked. Twelve of these cases have not been immunized and the immunization status of four is unknown.

The outbreak investigation continues at the Oxford County public health unit. An outbreak in the Dutch Reform community of British Columbia is also ongoing, and a link has been identified between the B.C. outbreak and the Ontario outbreak.

There is no evidence of local transmission to date in Peel Region.

Clinical Presentation of Mumps

Mumps is a contagious viral illness characterized by the acute onset of unilateral or bilateral tender, self-limited swelling of the parotid or other salivary glands lasting two or more days without another apparent cause.

Diagnostic Testing for Suspect Cases

Specimens for both virus isolation and serologic testing should be obtained early in the course of illness to confirm mumps infection.

Virus isolation by culture:

Obtain up to nine days after symptom onset by either:

- buccal swab (first choice) or throat swab, and
- urine sample - clean catch

Serology

Acute Serology:

- A blood test for mumps IgM and IgG taken three to five days after the onset of symptoms.

- Detection of IgM confirms the diagnosis of mumps.

Convalescent serology:

- A second test obtained 14 days or more after symptom onset
- Seroconversion or a significant rise in IgG is indicative of recent infection.

Note: If the acute serology results show low, indeterminate or negative IgM and IgG, repeat both tests in one to two weeks.

The laboratory requisition should:

- Include the reason for testing;
- Include relevant clinical information (e.g. suspect mumps, recent vaccination history, date of onset of parotitis, and recent travel);
- Be marked "STAT"; and
- Be forwarded to Central Public Health Laboratory.

Immunization against Mumps

Previous mumps outbreaks in Canada have been associated with unimmunized and under-immunized groups. Such outbreaks point to the importance of ensuring that patients in your practice are immunized.

Mumps vaccine is given in combination with Measles and Rubella (MMR). The first dose must be given after the first birthday and the second dose at least one month after the first.

If you encounter a suspect case of mumps, please contact Peel Public Health at (905) 799-7700.