IN THIS ISSUE:
- ALERT: 12 Cases of Enterovirus D68 Detected in Ontario

FROM:
Eileen de Villa, MD MBA MHSc CCFP FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

Key Messages:
- 12 cases of Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) detected in Ontario since August 1
- EV-D68 testing instructions include completing a Patient Clinical Summary Form
- Clinicians are asked to report EV-D68 infection with severe symptoms, and are required to report all cases of AFP in children.

UPDATE: 12 Cases of Enterovirus D68 Detected in Ontario

Public Health Ontario has been notified of 12 cases of enterovirus D68 (EV-D68), primarily children, from one hospital and its catchment area in Southern Ontario.

Summary of cases:
- 12 EV-D68 positive specimens among 128 (9.4%) respiratory specimens tested positive for rhinovirus/enterovirus (Aug 1 – Sep 11, 2016).
- 11 cases were children under the age of five years (range: one month – 64 years).
- No reports of AFP among cases.
- None of the cases have been reported as being epidemiologically linked.

Public Health Ontario Laboratories is conducting limited surveillance for EV-D68 among specimens submitted for respiratory virus testing. Testing will also be performed when the test is ordered during the enterovirus season (late summer and fall). Since August, 2016, there have been reports of EV-D68 from Canada, the United States, Europe and elsewhere, with a small number of reports of AFP in children.

EV-D68 Clinical Presentation

Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) primarily causes asymptomatic infection or mild respiratory illness with symptoms including fever, rhinorrhea, sneezing, coughing, rash, and/or myalgia. Children with pre-existing asthma may experience wheezing or difficulty breathing when infected with EV-D68. Rarely, EV-D68 may lead to severe respiratory illness or neurologic sequelae. A link between EV-D68 and acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) has not been confirmed, but is posited and being studied.

EV-D68 Testing Requirements

Submit a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab or viral throat swab (NP swab preferred) in universal transport media (UTM), or bronchoalveolar lavage in a sterile dry container for EV-D68 testing. Write "EV-D68 Testing" in the "Test(s) Requested" field on the PHOL General Test Requisition Form. Include dates of onset and sample collection, symptoms, travel history if appropriate, patient setting and note any co-morbidities such as asthma.

Clinicians requesting enterovirus/EV-D68 testing are to submit both the:
1. Patient Clinical Summary Form
2. General Test Requisition Form
For more information on EV-D68 visit:

**EV-D68 Reporting**

EV-D68 is not a reportable disease in Ontario, but clinicians are asked to notify Peel Public Health of any cases of EV-D68 that are associated with unusual or severe symptoms requiring hospitalization.

Clinicians are required to report all cases of AFP in children <15 years. To report, please contact Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700.