ALERT: Listeria Cases Linked to Druxy’s at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

Public Health Ontario is investigating an outbreak of four *Listeria monocytogenes* cases in Ontario that are linked by molecular testing. Three cases reported eating at the Druxy’s Famous Deli located in the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre at 610 University Avenue in Toronto prior to September 27, 2018. The molecular fingerprint of the cases in this outbreak is the same or closely related to that of three cases from an outbreak in March 2018 which was also linked to that Druxy’s location. One Peel case is under investigation.

Individuals who ate deli meats at this restaurant are asked to watch for signs and symptoms of *Listeria* infection and seek medical attention if they have symptoms.

**Listeriosis – Clinical Presentation**

Listeriosis is a foodborne illness that usually presents as a self-limited syndrome with malaise, fever and diarrhea with no further untoward outcome.

In a minority of cases, particularly the immunocompromised, neonates, elderly and pregnant women, illnesses such as bacteremia, meningitis and fetal loss can ensue. The incubation period is generally one to three weeks, but can be as short as 3 days or as long as 70 days.

More information about Listeria is available on the Public Health Ontario and the Public Health Agency of Canada websites.

**Testing**

**Asymptomatic individuals:**

- Should NOT be tested, regardless of whether they are high risk or consumed deli meat at any Druxy’s.
- Advise patients of invasive symptoms and to consult a health care provider should symptoms develop.

**Individuals with gastroenteritis with or without fever and history consumption of deli meats from Druxy’s:**

- Order routine stool culture and susceptibility as per usual practice.
- Counsel regarding potential invasive symptoms.
- If evidence of fever within 24 hours of clinical assessment, consider two sets of routine blood cultures.

**Individuals with symptoms of invasive disease, regardless of exposure:**

- Two sets of routine blood cultures should be taken from different sites and submitted to your private laboratory.
- Collect another set of blood cultures after 48 hours if the previous cultures are negative and there is on-going concern of invasive infection.
- If listeria is isolated from the blood sample, the isolate will be sent to the Public Health Ontario (PHO) Laboratory for confirmation and typing.
- Blood culture is NOT available at the PHO laboratory. Blood culture tubes submitted will be rejected.
- Consultation with an infectious diseases specialist is recommended.
For additional information on clinical testing for
Listeria, please see the Public Health Ontario
Lab abstract:
http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/LAB_SD_043_
Listeria_monocytogenes_specimen_collection.pdf

Treatment
Listeriosis can be treated with antibiotics. Follow clinical guidelines. Depending on the form of disease, treatment may take up to six weeks or more.

Reporting
Listeriosis is a reportable disease. All suspected and confirmed cases of Listeriosis should be reported immediately to the Region of Peel - Public Health at 905-799-7700.