

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Consulting Public Health Physician

DATE: February 2, 2023

RE: **Rabies – duty to report animal bite or contact; post-exposure prophylaxis**

QUICK FACTS

- All incidents of potential rabies exposure must be reported to Public Health staff to investigate, provide education, and monitor local activity, as per the [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#).
- In addition to cat and dog scratches/bites, please also report bat, raccoon, skunk and other mammal contact, since there are ongoing cases of these animals testing positive for rabies in Burlington, Milton and Oakville.

HOW TO REPORT

- Call 311 AND fax a completed [Rabies Exposure Reporting Form](#) to 905-825-8797 – 24/7, 365 days a year.

POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP)

- The [Rabies Prevention and Control Protocol](#) recommends that individuals receive post-exposure prophylaxis as soon as possible after the decision is made that PEP is required.
- Rabies immunoglobulin (Rablg) and vaccine for PEP are available upon request and will be delivered after completion of a risk assessment through Halton Region Public Health - 24/7, 365 days a year by calling 311 and requesting to speak to a Public Health Inspector.
- Please refer to the [Rabies Vaccine, Canadian Immunization Guide](#) for guidance on dose, route of administration and schedule of rabies PEP.
- Because of possible interference of Rablg with the immune response to the rabies vaccine, the dose of Rablg should not be exceeded.
- Rabies vaccine **must never be given into the gluteal muscle** due to the risk of a decreased immune response.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Infectious Diseases Protocol Appendix A: Disease-Specific Chapters: Rabies](#), Ministry of Health
- [Management of Potential Rabies Exposures Guideline, 2020](#), Ministry of Health
- [Rabies – Communicable Diseases Information for Physicians](#), Halton Region Public Health
- [Rabies information for Halton residents](#), Halton Region Public Health
- Video "[Administering Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis](#)"

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.