

January 27, 2016

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Hospitals – Emergency Rooms/Infection Control /Occupational Health, Walk-In Clinics

**RE: NATIONAL/PROVINCIAL INVESTIGATION OF LISTERIOSIS CASES**

Please be advised of the recent Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) recall and food safety investigation of certain Dole brand pre-packaged salad and leafy greens and PC Organics brand leafy greens due to possible *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination. For the most current information on recalled products, please access the CFIA website: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/newsroom/food-recall-warnings/complete-listing/2016-01-22c/eng/1453522915084/1453522920123>. Please monitor this website for any expansion of the recall.

No cases of listeriosis linked to this investigation have been reported to date among residents of Haliburton and Northumberland Counties and the City of Kawartha Lakes. As of January 23, there are seven (7) cases of *Listeria monocytogenes* in five provinces related to this outbreak: Ontario (3), Quebec (1), New Brunswick (1), Prince Edward Island (1), and Newfoundland and Labrador (1).

Some people face a higher risk of becoming sick with *Listeria* than others. Those who are at highest risk of serious illness include pregnant women and their unborn/newborn children, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems. Many people are exposed to *Listeria*, but only a few will actually develop listeriosis.

Laboratory Testing

**Individuals who have eaten suspect food only require laboratory testing if they have symptoms of meningitis and invasive disease. Specimens for *Listeria monocytogenes* should not be collected on asymptomatic patients.**

If the patient has invasive disease symptoms such as fever or meningitis:

Specimens to be submitted to a local diagnostic laboratory:

- Blood cultures
  - Two sets of blood cultures should be taken from different sites. A third set of blood cultures should be drawn if and only if endocarditis is suspected. Collect another set of blood cultures after 48hrs if the previous cultures are negative and there is ongoing concern of invasive infection with *Listeria monocytogenes*.
- Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
- Sterile site fluids and tissues such as joint fluid, cord blood and placental tissue

Further testing details are available at:

[https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/LAB\\_SD\\_043\\_Listeria\\_monocytogenes\\_specimen\\_collection.pdf](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/LAB_SD_043_Listeria_monocytogenes_specimen_collection.pdf)

**Should you have any questions, please contact the Health Unit and ask to speak with a nurse in the Communicable Disease Control, Epidemiology and Evaluation Department.**

Haliburton  
705-457-1391

Lindsay  
705-324-3569

Port Hope  
905-885-9100

After Hours  
1-888-255-7839