

March 12, 2018

MESSAGE IMPORTANCE: **HIGH**

TO: All Veterinarians

RE: **NOTICE OF LAB-CONFIRMED CANINE INFLUENZA (H3N2) REPORTED IN NORTHUMBERLAND & CHANGES TO REGULATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR VETERINARIANS**

NOTICE OF FIRST LAB-CONFIRMED CANINE INFLUENZA (H3N2)

HKPR District Health Unit has been notified of our first case of lab-confirmed canine Influenza (H3N2) resulting in an investigation by our staff. To date, through our investigation, a cluster of up to 16 suspect canine flu cases has been identified, lab results are still pending. The cluster is thought to be relatively contained and all canine presenting with influenza-like illness (ILI) have been treated.

Although risk of transmission to human populations is very low, close contacts (including all household contacts) of infected animals should be advised to self-monitor for the development of fever, cough, sore throat, wheezing, gastroenteritis and other acute respiratory illness symptoms for 14 days after their last exposure to the infected animal(s).

Individuals who develop symptoms during the monitoring period should be advised to **notify the Health Unit by calling 1-866-888-4577 ext. 1232.**

CHANGES TO REGULATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR VETERINARIANS

As of January 1, 2018, Ontario Regulation 557, Communicable Diseases – General, Section 6.1 <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900557> requires veterinarians or directors of laboratories to:

1. Report to the local public health unit, animal cases of suspected and/or confirmed
 - Avian Influenza (report immediately)
 - Novel Influenza (report immediately)
(defined as any influenza virus not already known to be endemically circulating in Ontario's animal species)
 - Echinococcus multilocularis (report within one business day)
2. Please ensure that you provide the following information to the Health Unit when reporting the animal case:
 - a. Location of the animal (bird, birds, poultry flock, or mammal species infected)
 - b. Full name and contact information of the animal owner(s)
 - c. Date of onset of clinical signs in the animal(s)
 - d. Current health status of the animal(s)
 - e. Any laboratory test results that have been received or are still pending

3. Continue reporting any animal exposure incidents involving humans (bite, scratch, saliva contact with mucous membrane or open wound) as required under section 2 (1).

HOW TO REPORT

Regular business hours:

- Fax all pertinent information to report Avian Influenza, Novel Influenza or Echinococcus multilocularis and a completed Animal Exposure Reporting Form to report animal bite/scratch incidents to the HKPRDHU fax at **905-885-1947**.

After hours, weekends and statutory holidays:

- All animal bite/scratch incidents involving humans as well as Avian and Novel influenza are to be reported by dialing the on-call phone number **1-888-255-7839** and faxing required information to the HKPRDHU fax **905-885-1947**

NOTE: For easier access to the above web links, visit the Health Unit website (www.hkpr.on.ca) for electronic copies of all current – and previous – editions of *FAX Facts*. Go to the ‘Resources & Forms’ header at the top of the web page and use the drop-down menu to click on the ‘Health Care Professionals’ section (a link to FAX Facts is posted there). A direct link is also provided below: www.hkpr.on.ca/ResourcesForms/HealthCareProfessionals/FAXFacts.aspx

Toll Free
1-866-888-4577

Email
info@hkpr.on.ca

After Hours
1-888-255-7839