

October 9, 2018

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

**RE: LISTERIOSIS OUTBREAK**

**Current situation**

An outbreak investigation is underway for four *Listeria monocytogenes* cases in Ontario that are linked by molecular testing. Of the cases with available information, all three reported eating at the Druxy's Famous Deli located in the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (610 University Avenue) in Toronto. 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.

**Implications for health care providers**

In light of this outbreak, a history of consuming food from the Druxy's location at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre strengthens the possibility of listeriosis in those with compatible signs and symptoms.

Further information about the clinical presentation of listeriosis can be found on the following websites:

- Government of Canada - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/listeriosis/health-professionals-listeriosis.html>
- United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.cdc.gov/listeria/technical.html>

Should you suspect listeriosis in your patient, please contact the Health Unit.

***Listeria* testing information**

- Prompt diagnosis using two sets of blood cultures is recommended for those with exposure to potentially implicated foods (e.g., food from the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre's Druxy's location prior to its closure on September 26, 2018) who present with symptoms of invasive listeriosis infection or gastroenteritis and fever. The incubation period for invasive listeriosis is generally two to three weeks but ranges from 3 to 70 days.

- Testing of asymptomatic individuals who consumed food from the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre’s Druxy’s location is not recommended. These individuals should be advised to promptly return for care if symptoms develop within 70 days of their last exposure. Testing of those who had symptoms that have now fully resolved is also not recommended, although they should be advised to return for care if symptoms develop within 70 days of their last exposure.
- Stool testing and serology for *Listeria* is not recommended, although individuals with gastroenteritis can have stool testing for other pathogens as per routine practice.

More detailed information regarding Listeriosis can be found on the Public Health Ontario Website at <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/Pages/IDLandingPages/Listeriosis.aspx>

Additional information on *Listeria* testing is available in the Public Health Ontario Lababstract, which can be found 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)

**For more information contact a nurse in the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Department at 1-866-888-4577 ext. 1232.**

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**NOTE:** For easier access to the above web links, visit the Health Unit website ([www.hkpr.on.ca](http://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 as follows: [www.hkpr.on.ca/ResourcesForms/HealthCareProfessionals/FAXFacts.aspx](http://www.hkpr.on.ca/ResourcesForms/HealthCareProfessionals/FAXFacts.aspx)

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Email  
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After Hours  
1-888-255-7839