

Date: October 20, 2014

To: Alberta Health, Laboratory Directors and Managers, Medical Officers of Health, All hospital physicians, Infection Prevention and Control, FNIHB

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: Update on Enterovirus (EV- D68) interim testing strategy

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) has been identified using surveillance and clinically-directed testing in Alberta patients^{1,2}.
- A lab bulletin was previously issued for an interim strategy for EV-D68 testing³.
- EV-D68 specific testing at ProvLab is available for clinical management, infection prevention and control, or exposure/outbreak investigation purposes.
- ProvLab will continue with routine influenza and respiratory virus testing, but will also test for enterovirus upon specific request.
- The lab testing protocol using the Respiratory Virus Panel identifies entero-rhinoviruses. Further enterovirus specific testing which is negative is likely a rhinovirus and will not be further characterized. Specimens that are enterovirus-positive will be further characterized, however only typing for EV-D68 positive specimens will be reported.
- For suspect acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases you must contact your local Medical Officer of Health (MOH) prior to specimen collection for direction on specimen collection, and coordination of testing.

Action required:

- For ProvLab laboratory testing requests for EV-D68, the following processes should be undertaken:
 - Use a manual Provlab requisition to order respiratory virus testing, complete all fields and indicate in writing "Do enterovirus D68 testing"
 - Collect and submit a properly labeled specimen with this requisition as you would for routine respiratory virus testing.
- **For guidance on suspect AFP patients please contact your local MOH prior to specimen collection.**

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Edmonton Site – Phone: 780-407-7121 (ask for the Virologist-on-Call)
- Calgary Site – Phone: 403-944-1200 (ask for the Virologist-on-Call)

Associated documents:

¹ <http://www.promedmail.org/direct.php?id=20140916.2775534>

² <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/10418.asp>

³ http://www.provlab.ab.ca/LabBulletin2014/wf_lab_bulletin_pl_Enterovirus_EV_D68_testing_Sept_22_2014.pdf

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical / Scientific Director, Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)