



Eastern Health

MEMORANDUM

TO: All RHA Microbiology and Laboratory Staff, Public Health Staff
FROM: Provincial Public Health and Microbiology Laboratory Services (PHML), Eastern Health
DATE: August 29, 2017
RE: Notifiable Disease Reporting to Regional Public Health – Please distribute

Dear Laboratory and Public Health Colleagues,

This memorandum is to remind microbiology laboratory staff of the expectations for communication to public health with respect to notifiable diseases.

The attached link provides the current notifiable disease list and contact information for public health. See: http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/notifiable_disease_list.pdf.

1. The local Regional Health Authority (RHA) Communicable Disease Control Nurse (CDCN) is to be notified of all suspect, preliminary and confirmed microbial isolates on this list.

For example, if a rural/regional lab identifies a bacterial isolate consistent with Listeria, the rural/regional microbiology laboratory is to contact the local RHA CDCN with this information without delay, in addition to referring the isolate to PHML for confirmation.

Reporting needs to occur at the earliest point a list A or B pathogen is suspected and this includes prior to confirmation.

2. Patients often move between RHAs – a common example being a specimen is collected when a patient is in one RHA but once a notifiable disease is suspected by the lab, the patient is transferred to a different RHA. Laboratory staff are expected to report the result to the CDCN office in the RHA where the specimen was originally collected.
3. The PHML lab is within Eastern Health and is the only testing site for several notifiable diseases. Nevertheless, any suspect or confirmed findings are to be reported to the CDCN office in the RHA where the specimen was collected from and ONLY EH patients are to be reported to the EH CDCN office.

4. For specimens or isolates tested at the PHML, suspect or confirmed findings are reported to the Provincial CDC office daily in addition to RHA CDCN notification.

Please direct any questions or concerns to the office of the Director and Chief, PHML.

Sincerely,

George Zahariadis, MD, FRCPC
Director and Chief, Public Health and Microbiology Laboratory Services

For additional information, check www.publichealthlab.ca or contact the PHML at 777-6583.