

Notification Pathway for Special Pathogens

The following notification pathway is to be used when a potential special pathogen case is identified in a human.

A **special pathogen (SP)** is a term applied to encompass Risk Group 4 pathogens and unknown emerging pathogens that are highly infectious, involve human-to-human transmission, likely cause severe disease and high mortality, and when effective prevention and treatment measures may not be available.

1. Infectious disease physician completes <u>risk assessment</u>¹, identifies potential SP case, and implements appropriate IPAC protocols² for a SP.

If an entity does not have the expertise to conduct a SP risk assessment, call your Public Health Unit (PHU)³ and/or the Public Health Ontario Laboratory (PHOL) Customer Service Centre⁴ to support the assessment.

Entities that may identify a potential SP case include a hospital, Quarantine Officer, PHOL, PHU, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), or community clinic.

2. Notify the Ministry of Health (MOH), Health System Emergency Management Branch (HSEMB) via the 24/7 Health Care Provider Hotline (1-866-212-2772, ext. 1) and your PHU.

3. Within 30 minutes of notification, MOH HSEMB will convene a call with relevant health partners to assess the situation.

Relevant partners include, but are not limited to the implicated hospital or health care setting, designated hospital/treatment centre, PHU, EMS/Ornge, Public Health Ontario (PHO), PHOL, Ontario Health (OH), National Microbiology Laboratory (NML)

Should the individual be investigated as a potential SP case? YES NO MORE INFO NEEDED 4a. Further MOH 4b. Determination 4c. Additional follow-

4a. Further MOHcoordinated discussion/ calls regarding:

- Testing plan⁵ (as applicable*)
- Patient care and transfer
 - Case and contact management
 - Communications
 - · Waste management
- *For new emerging pathogens, testing may not be available.

4b. Determination that a coordination call is no longer needed.

 Coordination, including communications, on standing down.

4c. Additional followup/investigation as needed.

 Determine what additional steps need to be taken, including further coordination and communication needs, while investigation is ongoing.

Footnotes and Additional Resources

- 1. Public Health Ontario Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) Symptom and Exposure Risk Assessment Tool: Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) Symptom and Exposure Risk Assessment
- 2. Public Health Ontario IPAC Resources for Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers:

 https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Diseases-and-Conditions/Infectious-Diseases/Vector-Borne-Zoonotic-Diseases/Ebola
- 3. Locate your Public Health Unit: https://www.ontario.ca/page/public-health-unit-locations.
- **4.** Public Health Ontario Laboratory Customer Service Centre: 416-235-6556/1-877-604-4567 during normal business hours; 416-605-3113 after-hours.
- 5. Public Health Ontario Diagnostic Serology for Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Laboratory-Services/Test-Information-Index/VHF-Diagnostic-Serology

For Ministry of Health guidance regarding special pathogens, refer to:

https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-health-emergency-management-plans-and-strategies.