

December 2, 2019

To: Health Care Professionals

Re: Duty to Report Animal to Human Bite/Exposure Incidents

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Rabies Prevention and Control Protocol, York Region Public Health is required to remind Health Care Professionals of their duty to report animal exposures that could result in the transmission of rabies to York Region Public Health.

Section 2 of Ontario Regulation 557 (Communicable Disease Regulation), under Health Protection and Promotion Act states:

2. (1) A physician, registered nurse in the extended class, veterinarian, police officer or any other person who has information concerning either or both of the following shall, as soon as possible, notify the medical officer of health and provide the medical officer of health with the information, including the name and contact information of the exposed person:

1. Any bite from a mammal.
2. Any contact with a mammal that is conducive to the potential transmission of rabies to persons. O. Reg. 501/17, s.

During regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), notification of an exposure incident can be reported to York Region Public Health by fax or phone. To notify by fax please complete the attached form and fax it to 905-898-8277. To notify by phone please contact call Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653 to speak to a Public Health Inspector. For After-hours reporting of an exposure incident please contact 1-888-335-0111 to leave a message to speak with a Public Health Inspector.

The Region's Animal Exposure Incident Reporting Form and other tools to assist physicians with their risk assessment, and if necessary the administration of Rabies Post Exposure Prophylactic (rPEP), can be found on the website at www.york.ca/rabies. New to the website is a quick reference factsheet to assist with the administration of rPEP.

Your time and effort to ensure timely notification to York Region Public Health is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kimberly Gray, Acting Manager, Health Protection Manager at 1-877-464-9675, ext. 73056.

Thank you for your cooperation,