



To contact the Medical Officer of Health, call 625-5965 or email: moh@tbdhu.com

MUMPS ALERT

Please increase your index of suspicion for mumps among your patient population.

It is critical that all health care providers IMMEDIATELY INFORM the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) if mumps is suspected and that all laboratory requisitions are clearly marked "suspect case of mumps" when submitting laboratory specimens.

I am writing to update you on the ongoing outbreak of mumps in Iowa, which has spread to at least 11 states, including suspect mumps cases in Guelph. The first mumps cases occurred in Iowa in December 2005, and as of May 22, 2006, there are a total of 1647 confirmed and probable mumps cases and 177 suspect cases reported to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). The median age at onset is 22 years and 23% are currently attending college. Of those cases with completed follow-up, 50% have received 2 doses of MMR and 13% have received 1 dose, and 6% have received 0 doses of MMR; vaccination status is unknown for 31%.

A recent MMWR dispatch provides an update on the multi-state mumps outbreak and can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm55d518.pdf>. Eight states (Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) reported mumps outbreaks with ongoing local transmission or clusters of cases; three states (Colorado, Minnesota, and Mississippi) reported cases associated with travel from an outbreak state. As of May 2, 2006, a total of 2,597 cases have been reported.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has issued a Travel Health Advisory, recommending that travelers ensure their routine childhood immunizations are up to date before traveling.

Ontario situation

Guelph

On May 17, 2006, the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph health unit reported that a US resident, who is a lab-confirmed mumps case, visited the University of Guelph on May 9th and 10th while infectious to others.

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The incubation period for mumps is about 16 to 18 days (range 14 to 25), which is May 23 to June 4, 2006. The health unit is currently investigating two suspect cases of mumps (persons who had contact with the index case) and is awaiting results of laboratory testing.

Hamilton

There have been no secondary cases reported as a result of the mumps case in Hamilton, who travelled to Iowa in March, 2006 and became ill on return.

Laboratory Testing

Confirmation of mumps infection can be made by virus isolation and by serologic testing. Specimens should be obtained early in the course of illness, when the virus titre is highest.

- a) **Acute Serology:** A blood specimen, to test for mumps antibodies (IgM and IgG) should be obtained as soon as possible after the onset of parotitis.
- b) **Virus isolation:** A nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate, or a throat swab obtained up to 8 days after the onset of parotitis, and /or approximately 50 ml of urine (clean catch) within 14 days after the onset of parotitis.

Follow-up lab testing:

Convalescent serology: A second blood specimen drawn 14 days or more after symptom onset to check for a significant rise in mumps specific IgG antibodies between acute and convalescent sera. Seroconversion or a significant rise in IgG titre is indicative of recent infection.

Note: If the acute (initial) serology results, in a patient with symptoms and known or suspected exposure to mumps, show low, indeterminate or negative IgM and IgG, both tests should be repeated in one to two weeks.

When requesting mumps specific IgM and IgG testing, please provide relevant clinical information on the lab requisition form and the purpose of the testing, e.g., suspect mumps, recent vaccination history and recent travel history to facilitate rapid testing.

I am forwarding this information to you, as there may be individuals arriving in your jurisdiction who may have been in contact with a mumps case.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this, please contact the Infectious Disease Program at (807) 625-8318.

Sincerely,
Darlene Binette
Manager, Infectious Disease Program