

**Ministry of Health**

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September 23, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Medical Officers of Health and Associates**

**FROM: Dr. Kieran M. Moore  
Chief Medical Officer of Health and  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health**

**RE: Rescindment of Chief Medical Officer of Health Order regarding  
Severe Acute Hepatitis of unknown origin in Children**

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The purpose of this memo is to notify Medical Officers of Health and Associates that as of September 23rd, 2022, the CMOH Order (dated May 20, 2022) under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, requiring all public hospitals to report cases of severe acute hepatitis of unknown origin in children to Public Health Ontario (PHO), has been rescinded.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has been coordinating a federal/provincial/territorial investigation into acute hepatitis cases in children since April 29, 2022. During this time 27 cases of acute hepatitis were identified in Canada, including a retrospective review back to October 2021; 14 of the cases were in Ontario.

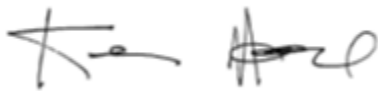
Baseline information from hospitalization databases indicates Canada would expect to see an average of 70 (median 71; range 60-80) cases per year of acute severe hepatitis not caused by a known hepatitis virus in children. This represents 5.83 cases per month (range 5-6.67). Between October 2021- August 2022 a median of 2 case (range 0- 7)

was reported each month. Based on this information, the number of acute hepatitis cases is not above expected in Canada since October 2021.

The current leading hypothesis is that co-infection with adeno-associated virus 2 (AAV2) and an adenovirus, or less often herpes virus HHV6, lead to the development of acute severe hepatitis. In Canada, Adenovirus has been detected in only 5/24 (20.8%) cases: one case sample was type B7, three cases were not typed; and genotyping is pending for one case. No cases (0/5) have tested positive for HHV6. Based on details from Canadian cases, it does not appear that adenovirus or herpes virus infection with or without AAV2 is a significant cause of illness for cases reported in Canada.

Investigation into acute hepatitis is continuing in a few countries, however the WHO has stated that reporting of new case is no longer required by International Health Regulations. Canada will no longer report cases to the WHO but will continue to monitor the international situation for any new developments and liaise with partners, as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Moore'.

Kieran Michael Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC FCAHS  
Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health