

Date: July 3, 2019

To: Zone Medical Department Head – Emergency Medicine – Edmonton Zone
Safe Healthy Environments – Edmonton Zone
Communicable Disease/Public Health Nurses – Edmonton Zone
Public Health Managers – Edmonton Zone

From: From: Dr Christopher Sikora, Lead Medical Officer of Health – Edmonton Zone
Darcy Garchinski, Director, Environmental Public Health – Edmonton Zone

RE: Streamlining Animal Bite/Exposure Reporting to Public Health

Effective July 9, 2019 Safe Healthy Environments/Environmental Public Health will be streamlining the animal bite/exposure process to expedite reporting of animal bite/exposures and simplify the process for the public to access the information or care they need:

1. Animal exposures that are negligible risk for rabies no longer need to be reported to Edmonton Zone Public Health. Please review [Animal Exposure Assessment Algorithm](#) for additional detail on negligible risk exposures. Examples of negligible exposures include:
 - No exposure to saliva of animal
 - Wound from police animal/service animal
 - Wound from family's own domestic dog, cat or ferret in Alberta that sleeps indoors
 - Wound from animals that do not typically carry rabies i.e. rabbits, squirrels, gophers, chipmunks, rats, mice, gerbils, hamsters, hedgehogs, woodchucks, groundhogs, muskrats and all bird species.
2. All patients with an animal exposure that is negligible risk for rabies should receive a copy of the [Patient Care Sheet: domestic dog/cat/ferret animal exposure wound public health follow-up](#).
3. Tetanus-prone wound assessments should continue via usual Edmonton Zone process.
4. Report all other animal bite/exposures via usual Edmonton Zone process.
5. Public Health clinical consultation for concerning animal bite/exposures has not changed and is available via usual Zone process.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process change, please contact Edmonton Zone Environmental Public Health (EZ EPH) Director at darcy.garchinski@ahs.ca or 780-735-1800, or the Edmonton Zone Medical Officer of Health (EZ MOH) at MOH.Edmonth@ahs.ca or 780-735-0194 Monday to Friday during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. To reach the above after hours and on weekends, the EZ MOH can be reached at 780-433-3940 and EZ EPH at 780-493-1963.

For your reference, this memo and accompanying documents will be posted on:
www.ahs.ca/eph/eph.aspx or www.ahs.ca/medstaff/ezmoh.aspx.

We appreciate all the work done to protect the health of those in and around Edmonton.
Please distribute to your teams as required.
