

**Date:** July 3, 2019

**To:** North Zone Emergency Department Physicians, Managers & Staff  
North Zone Safe Healthy Environments Staff  
North Zone Communicable Disease Nursing/Public Health Nursing  
North Zone Public Health Managers

**From:** Dr. Albert de Villiers, Lead Medical Officer of Health, North Zone  
Shane Hussey, Director, Environmental Public Health, North 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 Shane Hussey, North Zone Environmental Public Health Director at [Shane.Hussey@ahs.ca](mailto:Shane.Hussey@ahs.ca) or 780-841-3275, or the Medical Officer of Health at [MOH.North@ahs.ca](mailto:MOH.North@ahs.ca), or through CDC Intake at 1-855-513-7530 during regular business hours, or Public Health On Call at 1-800-732-8981 after hours and on weekends.

For your reference, this memo will be posted on the AHS-MOH webpage at: [www.ahs.ca/moh](http://www.ahs.ca/moh).