

**Ministry of Health**

Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health  
393 University Avenue, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M5G 2M2

Tel.: 416 212-3831  
Fax: 416 325-8412

**Ministère de la Santé**

Bureau du médecin hygiéniste en chef, santé publique  
393 avenue University, 21<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M5G 2M2

Tél. : 416 212-3831  
Télééc. : 416 325-8412

August 9, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**RE: Rabies Immune Globulin-Sparing Measures**

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Dear Colleagues,

Due to the recent Canadian human rabies case from a bat exposure, the usage of rabies immune globulin (Rablg) has increased significantly, resulting in a limited supply of Rablg being available both within Ontario and across Canada. This situation of limited Rablg supply may continue until November 2019.

Boards of health are being asked to reinforce messaging to local physicians and health-care providers about the pending shortage of rabies biologicals in the province, and the importance of adhering to appropriate risk assessment recommendations provided by health units for potential human exposures to rabies to promote judicious use of the limited provincial supply.

In an effort to ensure Rablg availability going forward, a Rablg-sparing protocol has been developed (see attached). Please ensure that healthcare providers administering rabies post-exposure prophylaxis are aware of this revised protocol effective immediately.

Furthermore, Medical Officers of Health are encouraged to assess all cases where an exposure requiring rabies post-exposure prophylaxis involves a bite to a finger, or another anatomical location where an entire calculated dose of Rablg likely cannot be infiltrated around the wound, and consider dispensing a reduced number of vials of Rablg to ensure that unopened vials are not wasted unnecessarily once they leave the health unit.

Should you have any questions, please contact Infectious Disease Policy and Programs at [IDPP@ontario.ca](mailto:IDPP@ontario.ca)

Sincerely,



David C. Williams, MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
Chief Medical Officer of Health

c: Dr. Peter Donnelly, President and CEO, Public Health Ontario

Attachment: Rabies Immune Globulin-Sparing Guidelines for Ontario