

**Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care**

Chief Medical Officer of Health

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August 26, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Health Chairs  
Medical Officers of Health and Associate Medical Officers of Health

**Re:** Amendment to the Protocol under the Ontario Public Health Standards – Disease-Specific Chapters of Appendix A and Provincial Case Definitions of Appendix B of the Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2013

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I am writing to inform you of the following changes to the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS): Two disease-specific chapters of Appendix A and two provincial case definitions of Appendix B of the *Infectious Diseases Protocol* have been revised.

The changes to the Protocol were made by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the ministry) with input from Public Health Ontario (PHO).

The revised appendices were released in April 2015, however, they have been updated again to provide greater clarity in certain sections. All changes will come into effect immediately.

Changes were made to the disease-specific chapters of Appendix A of the *Infectious Diseases Protocol* for the following diseases:

- *Gastroenteritis, Institutional Outbreaks*
- *Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions*

Changes were made to the provincial case definitions of Appendix B of the *Infectious Diseases Protocol* for the following diseases:

- *Gastroenteritis, Institutional Outbreaks*
- *Tuberculosis*

A summary of the April 2015 and the most recent changes is included in the Document History sections of the disease-specific chapters of Appendix A and provincial case definitions of Appendix B.

The documents will be available through the OPHS website at the following link:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/oph\\_standards/ophs/infdispro.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/oph_standards/ophs/infdispro.html)

The ministry and PHO will communicate further details regarding these changes to public health units via regular communications to ensure continued compliance with the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* and the OPHS.

I would like to express my thanks to you and your staff for your ongoing work in upholding the OPHS and Protocols to ensure the continued strength of the public health system in Ontario.

*Original signed by*

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

Attachment

c: Roselle Martino, Executive Director, Public Health Division  
Nina Arron, Director, Public Health Policy and Programs Branch, Public Health Division  
Paulina Salamo, A/Director, Public Health Standards, Practice and Accountability Branch, Public Health Division  
Dr. Peter Donnelly, President and Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Ontario  
Dr. George Pasut, Vice-President, Science and Public Health, Public Health Ontario  
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