

March 20, 2023

Public Health Alert – MDR *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*

Situation

Internationally, there have been reports of multi-drug resistant (MDR) gonorrhea, and **there has been an Ontario case of MDR gonorrhea identified in a patient with no known travel history**. This strain of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* has reduced susceptibility to ceftriaxone and cefixime and resistance to ciprofloxacin, penicillin, and tetracycline.

Goal

To detect the presence of MDR gonorrhea in Ontario.

Actions requested:

- Continue to collect specimens for NAAT testing from all exposed sites
- When possible, additionally collect swabs for culture; the CMOH of Ontario recommends a swab for culture as well as NAAT testing from all potentially exposed sites (see [memo](#))
 - Only swabs for culture can identify if the MDR strain of gonorrhea is present.
 - Swabs for culture must be received by the Public Health Ontario Laboratory no later than 72 hours after collection; consider local sample shipping limitations when sending swabs for culture. Samples may need to be collected Monday through Wednesday unless your facility has same-day shipping and/or shipping on the weekend to PHOL.
- In cases where exposure took place while traveling outside of our area, strongly consider swab for culture if the sample can be transported to PHOL within <72 hours.
- [Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections](#) currently recommends test of cure for all positive cases of gonorrhea at all positive sites; this is preferably done by culture but if not available, can be NAAT performed 2-3 weeks post-treatment.
- Testing information can be found at [Public Health Ontario Test Information Index](#).
- All cases of gonorrhea must be reported to NWHU and if you become aware of a patient with multi-drug resistant gonorrhea, please alert NWHU to support follow-up of the case and contacts. See [Reporting diseases of public health significance](#) for guidance on reporting.

For further information please see the [memorandum from Dr. Kieran Moore, CMOH Ontario](#)

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