



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



***Echinococcus Multilocularis* in Durham Region**

Echinococcus multilocularis (*E. multilocularis*) was recently identified in a chipmunk in Oshawa. Ontario is considered an endemic area for *E. multilocularis*, creating the potential for domestic animal and human exposure. Since 2018, when animal cases of *E. multilocularis* were made reportable and human cases made a Disease of Public Health Significance in Ontario, there has been only **one (1) domestic animal case and no (0) reported human cases in Durham Region.**

E. multilocularis is a parasitic infection primarily transmitted through the accidental consumption of contaminated fecal matter of infected canids (coyotes, foxes, dogs) or consumption of infected rodents.

Veterinarians are reminded to:

- Educate pet owners about the animal and human health risks of *E. multilocularis*.
- Educate dog owners about deworming agents containing praziquantel.
- Consider fecal PCR testing when indicated for dogs.
- Test unusual masses in the liver or elsewhere to confirm they are not Alveolar Echinococcosis.

In accordance with the [Communicable Diseases – General, RRO 1990, Reg. 557](#), a veterinarian or director of a laboratory **who knows or suspects** that one or more animals is infected with *E. multilocularis* shall notify the Medical Officer of Health within one business day.

To report suspect and confirmed cases of *E. multilocularis*, please call:

- Phone: 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 ext. 7369
- Confidential Fax: 905-666-1833
- After Hours: 905-576-9991 or 1-800-372-1104

[The Animal Disease Reporting Form for Veterinarians](#) can also be found on the Durham Region Health Care Professional webpage (or durham.ca/hcp, Forms, Reporting, Animal Disease Reporting Form for Veterinarians).

In addition to *E. multilocularis*, veterinarians are required to report suspect or confirmed animal cases of:

- **Avian chlamydiosis**
- **Avian influenza**
- **Novel influenza in mammals** (defined as any influenza virus not already known to be endemically circulating in Ontario's animal species)

October 8, 2024

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

