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Listeriosis outbreak linked to Druxy's Famous Deli, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

On March 21, 2018, Toronto Public Health issued a media release about a listeriosis outbreak investigation regarding **three** confirmed listeriosis cases linked to consumption of sandwiches at the **Druxy's Famous Deli** located in **Princess Margaret Cancer Centre**, 610 University Ave, Toronto. Onset dates for cases range from **January 14 to March 14, 2018**. **Corrective actions** with regard to food safety have been **undertaken** and the **investigation is ongoing**. There are presently **no** Durham Region cases.

In healthy individuals, listeriosis is generally asymptomatic, or can cause gastrointestinal symptoms with fever. **Pregnant women** can develop **mild illness** with fever, fatigue, and muscle aches; however, infection **during pregnancy** can result in **complications** such as **stillbirth, miscarriage, premature delivery** or severe illness, such as **sepsis** or **meningitis**, in the **newborn**. **Invasive listeriosis**, which can involve meningitis, encephalitis, sepsis or infection in other parts of the body, is rare but **more likely** to occur **in the elderly** or those who are **immunocompromised** from medication or underlying illness. Symptoms of **severe infection** can include fever, headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance and convulsions. Listeriosis has a typical onset time of **1-3 weeks**, but can range from 3 to 70 days. Those who consumed deli meat from this location between **January 1 to March 12, 2018** could still be **incubating** listeriosis.

More detailed information regarding the signs and symptoms of listeria is available on the [Public Health Ontario](#) and the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) websites.

Listeriosis can be treated with antibiotics, but early prompt diagnosis is the key. **Two sets of blood cultures** are recommended for those who consumed food from the Druxy's in the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre from January 1 to March 12 and present with symptoms of invasive listeriosis or gastroenteritis and fever.

Testing of **asymptomatic individuals** who consumed **deli meats** from **any** Druxy's location is **not** recommended. These individuals should be advised to **promptly return for care** if symptoms develop within **70 days** of their **last** exposure. Testing of those whose symptoms have **fully resolved** is also **not** recommended. They should also be advised to **return for care** if symptoms develop within **70 days** of their **last** exposure. **Stool testing** and **serology** for listeria is **not** recommended, although individuals with gastroenteritis **can** have **stool testing** for other pathogens as per routine practice.

Detailed information regarding *Listeria* testing is available in the [Public Health Ontario Lababstract](#).

Health care providers are requested to **report all confirmed cases** to the Durham Region Health Department, Health Protection Division at **1-888-777-9613**.

Health care provider resources now available to order online durham.ca/HCP.