

**Ministry of Health**

Office of Chief Medical Officer  
of Health, Public Health

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**Ministère de la Santé**

Bureau du médecin hygiéniste  
en chef, santé publique

Boîte à lettres 12  
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

June 22, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**RE: Amendments to the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* - Addition of Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, and Powassan Virus to Ontario Regulations**

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Dear colleagues,

The purpose of this memo is to make you aware of the *approved* amendments to Ontario regulation 135/18 (Designation of Diseases) and O. Reg. 569 (Reports) under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA).

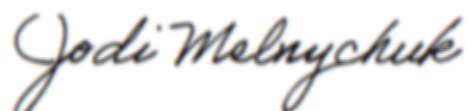
In response to reports of emerging tick-borne diseases and an increase in blacklegged tick populations across Ontario, amendments to Ontario regulation 135/18 to add anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and Powassan virus as Diseases of Public Health Significance (DoPHS) were approved. In addition, amendments to O. Reg. 569 “Reports” to specify the reporting requirements for these new DoPHS to Medical Officers of Health were also approved.

The effective date for these amendments is July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Disease-specific appendices under the Ontario Public Health Standards, will be posted online prior to the effective date of July 1, 2023. For training purposes, PDF versions of the appendices have been attached to this email.

Public Health Ontario (PHO) will be developing disease-specific pages available from the Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases [webpage](#). Content to be provided on these pages includes an PHIS Quick Reference Guide that covers all three new tick-borne DoPHS, as well as Ontario Investigation Tools (OIT), and Test Information Sheets that are specific for each tick-borne disease. The iPHIS Quick Reference Guide and the three OITs have been included for your reference for planning purposes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [IDPP@ontario.ca](mailto:IDPP@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,



Jodi Melnychuk, Director, Health Protection, Policy and Partnerships Branch

cc.

Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Michael Sherar, President and Chief Executive Office, Public Health Ontario