

Ontario Public Health Standards:
Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability

Infectious Disease Protocol

Appendix 1:

Case Definitions and Disease-Specific Information

Disease: Chancroid

Effective: May 2022

Chancroid

Communicable

Virulent

[Health Protection and Promotion Act \(HPPA\)](#)

[Ontario Regulation \(O. Reg.\) 135/18 \(Designation of Diseases\)](#)

Provincial Reporting Requirements

Confirmed case

Probable case

As per Requirement #3 of the "Reporting of Infectious Diseases" section of the *Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2018* (or as current), the minimum data elements to be reported for each case are specified in the following:

- [O. Reg. 569](#) (Reports) under the HPPA;⁹
- The iPHIS User Guides published by Public Health Ontario (PHO); and
- Bulletins and directives issued by PHO.

Type of Surveillance

Case-by-case

Case Definition

Confirmed Case

Laboratory confirmation of *Haemophilus ducreyi* in a specimen taken from an appropriate anatomical site (e.g., cervix, genital area, vaginal wall), with clinically compatible signs and symptoms.

Probable Case

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms in a person with an epidemiologic link to

a laboratory-confirmed case.

Outbreak Case Definition

The outbreak case definition varies with the outbreak under investigation. Please refer to the *Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2018* (or as current) for guidance in developing an outbreak case definition as needed.

The outbreak case definitions are established to reflect the disease and circumstances of the outbreak under investigation. The outbreak case definitions should be developed for each individual outbreak based on its characteristics, reviewed during the course of the outbreak, and modified if necessary, to ensure that the majority of cases are captured by the definition. The case definitions should be created in consideration of the outbreak definitions.

Outbreak cases may be classified by levels of probability (*i.e.*, confirmed and/or probable).

Clinical Information

Clinical Evidence

Single or multiple painful, necrotizing ulcers at site of infection. There may also be tender inguinal lymphatic nodes.

Clinical Presentation

An acute bacterial infection localized in the genital area and characterized clinically by single or multiple painful, necrotizing ulcers at the site of infection, frequently accompanied by painful swelling and suppuration of regional lymph nodes.¹

Laboratory Evidence

Laboratory Confirmation

The following will constitute a confirmed case of chancroid:

- Positive *Haemophilus ducreyi* culture
- Positive *Haemophilus ducreyi* nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT)

Approved/Validated Tests

- Standard Gram stain and culture (Note: The Gram stain morphology will have a “school of fish-like” appearance)
- NAAT for *Haemophilus ducreyi*

Indications and Limitations

Not applicable

For further information about human diagnostic testing and laboratory diagnosis, contact the [Public Health Ontario Laboratories](#) and/or the [Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections](#).

Case Management

In addition to the requirements set out in the Requirement #2 of the “Management of Infectious Diseases – Sporadic Cases” and “Investigation and Management of Infectious Diseases Outbreaks” sections of the *Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2018* (or as current), the board of health shall provide appropriate counselling; advise that infected persons with genital ulcers should be tested for herpes, syphilis, HIV and other STIs.

Treatment and follow up is under the direction of the attending health care provider.

Refer to the [Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted/Blood-Borne Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2018](#) (or as current) for more information, and the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections (2018, or as current).^{3,4}

Contact Management

Refer to the *Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted/Blood-Borne Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2018* (or as current) for more information, and the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections (2018, or as current).^{3,4}

Outbreak Management

Please see the *Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2018* (or as current) for the public health management of outbreaks or clusters in order to identify the source of illness and manage the outbreak.

Prevention and Control Measures

Personal Prevention Measures

As with other STIs, prevention is mainly through:

- Safer sex education and counselling with emphasis on condom use to decrease transmission;
- Education about the symptoms of chancroid infection and other STIs, and modes of spread; and
- Education about other risk factors and behaviours.

Infection Prevention and Control Strategies

Refer to [PHO's website](#) to search for the most up-to-date information on Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC).

Disease Characteristics

Aetiologic Agent - Chancroid is caused by *Haemophilus ducreyi*, a gram-negative coccobacillus.¹

Modes of Transmission - Direct sexual contact with discharge from open lesions and pus from buboes. Autoinoculation to non-genital sites may occur in infected people. Sexual abuse must be considered when chancroid is found in children.¹

Incubation Period – 3-5 days up to 14 days.¹

Period of Communicability - Until lesions are healed and as long as infectious agent persists in the original lesion or discharging regional lymph nodes – up to several weeks or months in the absence of antibiotic therapy.¹

Reservoir - Humans.¹

Host Susceptibility and Resistance - Susceptibility is general; the uncircumcised are at higher risk than the circumcised; there is no evidence of natural resistance.¹

Please refer to [PHO's Reportable Disease Trends in Ontario reporting tool](#) for the most up-to-date information on infectious disease trends in Ontario.

For additional national and international epidemiological information, please refer to the Public Health Agency of Canada and the World Health Organization.

References

1. Heymann DL, editor. Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 20 ed. Washington, D.C: American Public Health Association; 2015.
2. Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, Reg. 569, Reports, (2018). Available from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900569>
3. Public Health Agency of Canada. Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections [Internet]. Ottawa, ON: Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada; 2018 [cited May 15, 2018]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/sexually-transmitted-infections.html>
4. Ontario, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted/ Blood-Borne Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2018. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018. Available from: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/protocolsguidelines.aspx

Case Definition Sources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System: Chancroid (*Haemophilus ducreyi*) - 1996 Case Definition [Internet]. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; 1996 [cited February 12, 2009].

Available from: [Chancroid \(Haemophilus ducreyi\) 1996 Case Definition | CDC](#)

Public Health Agency of Canada. Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections [Internet]. Ottawa, ON: Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada; 2018 [cited May 15, 2018]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/sexually-transmitted-infections.html>

Document History

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revisions
April 2022	Entire Document	New template. Appendix A and B merged. No material content changes.
April 2022	Epidemiology: Occurrence section	Removed.
April 2022	ICD Codes	Removed.