

Appendix A: Disease-Specific Chapters

Chapter: *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections

***Chlamydia trachomatis* infections**

- Communicable
 Virulent

**Health Protection and Promotion Act:
Ontario Regulation 558/91 – Specification of Communicable Diseases**

**Health Protection and Promotion Act:
Ontario Regulation 559/91 – Specification of Reportable Diseases**

1) Aetiologic Agent:	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> is an obligate intracellular bacterium causing genital infections and other forms of infections including chlamydial conjunctivitis and pneumonia (1).
2) Case Definition:	
Surveillance Case Definition	See Appendix B
Outbreak Case Definition	Not applicable.
3) Identification:	
Clinical Presentation	<p>Chlamydia infection is frequently asymptomatic.</p> <p>Males may usually present with urethral discharge, dysuria and frequency, non-specific urethral symptoms such as redness, itching, and swelling (1, 2).</p> <p>Females may usually present with cervical infection that includes the following signs and symptoms: a mucopurulent endocervical discharge with edema, erythema and easily induced endocervical bleeding. Complications and sequela include salpingitis pelvic inflammatory disease with subsequent risk of infertility. Up to 70% of sexually active females with chlamydia infection are asymptomatic (1).</p> <p>Can present as Chlamydia pneumonia in infants (1).</p>
Diagnosis	See Appendix B
4) Epidemiology:	
Occurrence	<p>Common worldwide (1); high rates of infection among sexually active persons.</p> <p>In Ontario, Chlamydia is the most commonly reported STI. The rate</p>

	of Chlamydia is higher among females, and has been rising. Reported rates are highest among youth and young adults aged 15 to 24 years.
Reservoir	Humans (1).
Modes of Transmission	Sexual contact via oral, vaginal, cervical, urethral or anal routes; in children, exposure to infected genitals (consider the possibility of sexual abuse in these cases); newborns: during delivery from infected mother (1, 2).
Incubation Period	From time of exposure to onset of infection is 2-3 weeks, but can be as long as 6 weeks (2).
Period of Communicability	Unknown; may extend for months or longer if untreated, especially in asymptomatic persons; re-infections are common; effective treatment ends infectivity (1).
Susceptibility and Resistance	<p>Susceptibility is general (1); the transmission probability of <i>C. trachomatis</i> has been estimated to be as high as 20% per genital sexual contact and is more efficient male-to-female than female-to-male.</p> <p>No acquired immunity has been demonstrated, although strain specific immunity probably exists (1).</p>

5) Reporting Requirements:

To local Board of Health	Laboratory confirmed cases shall be reported to the medical officer of health by persons required to do so under the <i>Health Protection and Promotion Act</i> , R.S.O. 1990.
To Public Health Division (PHD)	<p>Report only case classifications specified in the case definition to PHD.</p> <p>Cases shall be reported using the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS), or any other method specified by the Ministry within five (5) business days of receipt of initial notification as per <i>iPHIS Bulletin</i> Number 17: Timely Entry of Cases (3).</p> <p>The minimum data elements to be reported for each case is specified in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ontario Regulation 569</i> (Reports) under the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA); • The disease-specific User Guides published by the Ministry, and • Bulletins and directives issued by the Ministry.

6) Prevention and Control

Refer to the *Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections*

Measures:	<i>Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008</i> (or as current) for the following sections, and the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections, Public Health Agency of Canada, 2008 edition.
Personal Prevention Measures	Preventative measures include education about safer sex practices including use of condoms and early detection of infection by testing those at risk (2). Screening should be offered to all sexually active persons as per the protocol listed above (2).
Infection Prevention and Control Strategies	Not applicable.
Management of Cases	Refer to <i>Ontario Regulation 569</i> for relevant data to collect and ensure to inquire about the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • history of exposure • contact history and • assess for risk factors Provide education about and promote safer sex practices and advise about the need to test for HIV infection and other STIs if indicated (2). Treatment determined as per attending health care provider; refer to the <i>Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008</i> (or as current) for the following sections, and the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections, Public Health Agency of Canada, 2008 edition.
Management of Contacts	All identified sexual contacts exposed should be assessed, tested and treated as per the <i>Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008</i> (or as current).
Management of Outbreaks	Not applicable (1).
7) References	(1) Heymann D, editor. Control of communicable diseases manual. 18th ed. Washington: American Public Health Association; 2004. (2) Public Health Agency of Canada. Canadian guidelines on sexually transmitted infections. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2008. Available from http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/std-mts/sti_2006/pdf/Guidelines_Eng_complete_06-26-08.pdf . (3) Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Timely entry of cases. <i>iPHIS Bulletin</i> . 2007 May 11;17.
8) Additional Resources	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Sexual health and sexually transmitted infections prevention and control protocol. Toronto: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2008. Available from http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/oph_standards/ophs/progstds/protocols/sexual_health_sti.pdf . (or as

current)

Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7. Available from http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90h07_e.htm

