



Yamhill County
Health and Human Services
Public Health

ALERT

**COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO
Health Care Providers**

To: Health Care Providers in Yamhill County

From: Yamhill County Public Health

Date: **06/25/2025**

Regarding: **Risk of botulism following "Botox" injections**

Phone number for follow-up: **(503) 434-7483**

In recent years, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has investigated many cases of iatrogenic botulism following injections of counterfeit or mishandled botulinum toxin ("Botox") from individuals who were not following state or local licensure requirements. A suspect case of iatrogenic botulism was recently identified in Multnomah County and healthcare providers should familiarize themselves with the signs and symptoms of botulism, a serious and life-threatening infection. All suspect cases of botulism are immediately reportable to public health.

Symptoms of botulism include:

- Blurry or double vision
- Difficulty opening eyelids
- Difficulty swallowing
- Slurred speech
- Difficulty breathing
- Muscle weakness

These cranial nerve palsies typically occur symmetrically and may rapidly progress to a descending flaccid paralysis.

Healthcare providers should:

- Consider the possibility of adverse effects from Botox injection, including for cosmetic purposes, when patients present with signs and symptoms consistent with botulism near the injection site.
- Be aware of the overlap between the presentation of localized adverse effects from Botox injection and the early symptoms of botulism. To help distinguish early botulism symptoms and localized adverse effects:
 - Assess for symmetry of cranial nerve palsies. Botulism infection typically presents with symmetric cranial nerve deficits.
 - Assess for progression of cranial nerve palsies. Progression of symptoms is consistent with botulism infection.
- Be aware that botulism can progress rapidly to respiratory failure and death.
- If you suspect botulism, call the 24/7 on-call epidemiologist at Oregon Health Authority immediately at 971-673-1111.

- Counsel patients regarding the risk of Botox injections and that injections should only be provided by licensed medical providers trained in the administration of FDA-approved botulinum toxin products.

Additional resources:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention About Botulism](#)

For questions regarding botulism, please contact Dr. Melissa Sutton at melissa.sutton@oha.oregon.gov.

This Health Alert Network was sent to ORCD1 which includes hospitals, health officers, health administrators, preparedness coordinators, infection preventionists and communicable disease nurses and some Oregon Health Authority- Public Health Division staff.

Unless otherwise noted, feel free to share this HAN notification with:

- **Others within your organization.**
- **Professionals within your health, preparedness, and response affiliations.**

Oregon 24/7 disease reporting: 971-673-1111