

COVID-19: Outbreak Preparedness

Group/Residential/Personal Care Homes

Written Outbreak/Pandemic Plan

Every home should have a plan in place for protecting residents, staff, and visitors from outbreaks, which forms part of their Exposure Control Plan. They must have a system for monitoring and reporting COVID-19-like illness

Education:

- On going Infection Control Education and refreshers on routine infection control practices, to prevent an outbreak, is the most important action your home can take to prevent an outbreak. If one occurs, know how to contain it!
- what to do if there is a suspect case
 - **Don't wait Isolate!**
 - Review signs & symptoms
 - Proper hand hygiene
 - Proper PPE use and the donning & doffing process
 - Enhanced cleaning
 - Have poster and other informational materials available to distribute and display

Communication:

- keep updated resident information
- develop a process to communicate as a team should an outbreak occur
- resident's family & physician

Management Plan:

- Suspension of resident services to help contain spread
- Visitor restriction
- Consider alternate plan for safely providing activities for residents

Human Resource/Staff Capacity Planning-outbreaks can create a sudden or unexpected increased need for staff

- Staffing needs
- Cohorting to contain spread
- Sick staff stay home
- Close contact isolate for 14days (this can be prevented with proper PPE)

Extra Supplies

Extra PPE (glove, gowns, medical grade masks, Face shield up to a month's supply)

- Use burn rate calculator (SASWH.ca)
- Order more supplies at onset of pandemic (have a relationship with a reliable supplier)