

NORTH ZONE ACUTE CARE FACILITIES EARLY OUTBREAK RECOGNITION FORM

Hospital Site Manager / Unit Manager

If your staff has reported two or more cases of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) or Gastrointestinal (GI) Illness in patients or staff members you should:

- **Report all outbreaks to NZ CDC Intake.** During regular office hours, call 1-855-513-7530. Evenings/weekends/stat holidays, call 1-800-732-8981 and ask for Public Health on Call.
- **Notify the site Infection Control Professional (ICP).**
- **Immediately implement Initial Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) Measures** (see page 2). Refer to and follow ILI or GI Outbreak Management Algorithms.
- Collect the following information to assist Public Health in determining the need for further investigation and/or recommendations.

Your Name, Designation & Contact Number: _____

Name of Facility: _____

Address of Facility: _____

Date Illness Reported to you: _____

Date of Onset of Symptoms: _____

Description of Symptoms: _____

Number of Patients: _____

Number of Staff employed: _____

Number of patients exhibiting signs and symptoms of illness: _____

Number of staff exhibiting signs and symptoms of illness: _____

Patients transferred due to illness being reported: Y / N # _____

Location: _____

Patients deceased due to the illness being reported: Y / N # _____

Initial Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Measures

Based on the type of illness presenting (ILI or GI illness), implement the **initial** IPC measures outlined below as soon as an outbreak is suspected to help reduce the spread of infection. Do not wait until the causative agent is identified.

Strict Hand Hygiene is the most important measure in preventing spread of infections.

- ✓ Reinforce the need for frequent and thorough hand hygiene before and after providing care to patients and after touching used patient care equipment or soiled environmental surfaces.
- ✓ Alcohol based hand rubs containing at least 70% alcohol are as effective as soap and water when hands are not visibly soiled.
- ✓ Wash hands with soap and water if visibly soiled or if they feel dirty.
- ✓ Plain soap and water are recommended following glove removal when caring for patients with diarrhea and/or vomiting.

Restriction of Symptomatic Patients

- ✓ Symptomatic patients should be placed on appropriate isolation.

Staffing (including volunteers, students)

- ✓ Ensure the Zone WHS office has been notified of the outbreak.
- ✓ Zone WHS, in partnership with the Zone Outbreak Response Lead will manage staff affected by the outbreak. Activities may include:
 - Exclude symptomatic staff from working
 - Cohort or assign staff to care for asymptomatic patients before symptomatic patients
 - Consider minimizing movement of staff, students or volunteers between units/floors, especially if some units are not affected
 - If possible, during initial investigations of ILI, assign staff that have been immunized against influenza to care for symptomatic patients

Communication

- ✓ Inform staff and notify visitors that an outbreak is being investigated in the facility
- ✓ Discourage symptomatic visitors from visiting
- ✓ Ensure individuals visiting symptomatic patients are wearing appropriate PPE

- Refer to “Guidelines for Outbreak Prevention, Control and Management in Acute Care and Facility Living Sites Includes Influenza and Gastrointestinal Illness October 2013” <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/Diseases/hi-dis-flu-prov-hlsl.pdf>
- Further information can be found on the AHS IPC website: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/6410.asp> and on the IPC Resource Manual – Acute Care: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/6854.asp>