

Management of Respiratory Illness for Continuing Care Homes

Central Zone Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

Symptomatic resident is identified

Initiate Infection Control Measures

Place on [contact and droplet precautions](#) and swab for respiratory organisms

If **two (2) or more linked** respiratory illness cases are identified within a 7-day period

call AHS Population Public Health Support Team (PPHST) Line at 1-844-343-0971

Notify the following departments as applicable:

- Site Leadership / On-call Manager (after hours)
- Site Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)
- Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) (symptomatic)

Communicable Disease Control (CDC) will connect with the facility

- EI number will be provided
- Send RPP specimens for all symptomatic residents, include EI # if known.

If outbreak is confirmed, initiate the [Respiratory Outbreak Checklist](#)

Site Leadership to Distribute Communications

Follow the zone-specific process to notify all other areas

One resident with symptoms:

- If the resident is exhibiting at least **ONE** core respiratory symptom: fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose/nasal congestion, loss of taste and/or smell, decrease in oxygen (O₂) saturation level or increased O₂ requirements, nausea or diarrhea, submit an NP swab for the Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP).
- Initiate infection control measures:
 - ✓ Monitor for additional symptomatic residents.
 - ✓ Post signs (precautions, donning/doffing) outside of required rooms.
 - ✓ Arrange for tray service as required.
 - ✓ Ensure staff are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) based on IPC RA (Risk Assessment).
 - ✓ Always follow the 4 Moments of hand hygiene.

If an outbreak is declared an initial outbreak meeting is encouraged to facilitate communication.

- Initiate outbreak control measures:
 - ✓ Continuous masking and eye protection.
 - ✓ Enhanced cleaning and disinfection.
 - ✓ PPE Safety Coach support.
 - ✓ Hand hygiene reviews if work capacity allows.

Resource

[Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Continuing Care Homes](#)

[Central Zone Contact List & Resources](#)

For more information contact: ipccenzonadmin@ahs.ca
© 2024 Alberta Health Services, IPC



<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Original date: July 5, 2022

Revised date: December 4, 2024