

Respiratory Illness Management in AHS LTC/DSL/Hospice Settings

Central Zone Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

If you are caring for a resident living in a congregate care facility who develops symptoms of respiratory illness, the resident must be immediately placed on [modified respiratory precautions](#). Follow the algorithm below:

Symptomatic resident identified by unit staff/manager

Initiate Infection Control Measures

If the resident is exhibiting at least **ONE** core symptom¹ submit swab for COVID-19, Influenza A and B and RSV

If 2 or more linked resident and/or staff cases are identified within 7 days, call AHS Population Public Health Support Team (PPHST) Line at 1-844-343-0971

Notify the following departments:

- Site Leadership / On-Call Manager
- [Site Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\)](#)
- [Workplace Health and Safety \(WHS\)](#)

Communicable Disease Control (CDC) will connect with the facility

- EI number will be provided
- Record EI number on lab requisition
- Collect COVID-19 and RPP swabs for symptomatic residents

If outbreak is confirmed, initiate the [Outbreak Management Checklists](#)

- LTC, DSL and Hospice Site under OB Mgmt Tools

Site Leadership to Distribute Communications

Follow the zone specific process to notify all other areas

For a **resident** exhibiting symptoms - **initiate** Infection Control Measures:

- ✓ Post signs (precautions, donning/doffing) outside of required rooms
- ✓ Arrange for tray service as required
- ✓ Staff to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) based on IPC RA (Risk Assessment)
- ✓ Follow strict hand hygiene at all times
- ✓ Monitor for additional symptomatic residents

If an **outbreak is declared** an initial outbreak meeting is encouraged to facilitate communication of the outbreak. Initiate:

- ✓ Continuous masking and eye protection
- ✓ Enhanced cleaning and disinfection
- ✓ PPE Safety Coach support
- ✓ Hand hygiene reviews if work capacity allows

Resources

¹Table A & B (page 10, 11) [Guide for Outbreak Prevention Control in Long Term Care and Designated Supportive Living Sites \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)

Central Zone MOH Webpage: [LTC Outbreak Management](#)

For more information contact: ipccenzoneadmin@ahs.ca

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