

Respiratory Illness Outbreak

Checklist for correctional centres

Includes COVID-19, influenza and other respiratory illness outbreaks

This checklist provides general measures for controlling respiratory illness outbreaks. Refer to the [Guide for Outbreak Prevention & Control in Correctional Centres](#) for detailed recommendations.

When applicable, follow centre-specific policies.

Medically isolate symptomatic or confirmed clients (refer to section 1.3 and 3.1)

- Perform hand hygiene and practice respiratory etiquette.
- Conduct an Infection Prevention and Control Risk Assessment prior to every client interaction and use personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Identify newly symptomatic or confirmed clients.
- Medically isolate symptomatic or confirmed clients on Droplet and Contact precautions.

COVID-19 If the pathogen is COVID-19



- Follow centre processes for COVID-19 outpatient treatment for eligible clients who test positive for COVID-19.

Influenza If the pathogen is influenza



- Follow centre processes for oseltamivir (Tamiflu) treatment for eligible clients who test positive for influenza.

Communicate and coordinate (refer to section 3.2)

- Implement continuous masking and eye protection for HCW/staff and client workers.
- Inform HCW/staff, clients and partners of the outbreak.
- Post outbreak signs at the centre/unit/range entrance.
- Direct HCW/staff to not attend work when ill and report symptoms to the manager/designate.
- Report new respiratory illness cases daily using the Facility CDC Outbreak Daily Report Portal.
- Direct HCW/staff to care for asymptomatic clients before symptomatic and confirmed clients.
- Cohort HCW/staff and client workers to work only in affected areas or only in unaffected areas.

Influenza If the outbreak pathogen is influenza



- Follow employer policies regarding work attendance, work restriction, masking and eye protection.
- Follow centre processes for provision of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) prophylaxis to eligible asymptomatic clients, regardless of immunization status.

Complete outbreak environmental cleaning and disinfection (refer to section 3. 3)

- Increase cleaning and disinfection frequency.
- Immediately clean and disinfect visibly dirty surfaces.
- Perform cleaning and disinfection wearing PPE and use a disinfectant that kills respiratory viruses.
- Clean and disinfect cell/medical isolation space, moving from clean to dirty. Clean bathroom last.

Plan safe activities for clients who are not isolating (refer to section 3. 4)

- Use physical distancing and hand hygiene for low-risk group activities and encourage masking.
- Postpone/cancel high-risk group activities if directed by the AHS Public Health Outbreak team.
- Use virtual court attendance where possible. Use preventative measures such as hand hygiene and physical distancing for in-person court attendance.

Plan safe visits (refer to section 3. 5)

- Provide safe visiting guidance to visitors.
- Enforce a complete closure of personal client visitation if directed by Correctional Services division.

Admission, transfers and discharge restrictions (refer to sections 3. 6 and 3.7)

- Implement restrictions for the centre/unit/range as directed.

Use food service modifications (refer to section 3. 8)

- Initiate outbreak modifications for food service.
- Provide meal service to medically isolating clients in their cell/medical isolation space.

Specimen collection (refer to section 3. 9)

- Collect specimens as directed by the AHS Public Health Outbreak team.
- Ensure proper specimen collection, handling and labeling, including the outbreak EI number.