

Central Zone Discharge/Admit/Transfer Process During CD Outbreaks

Date: Thursday, December 23, 2021

To: Acute Care Managers and Discharge Planners; Long Term Care Sites; Designated Supportive Living Sites (DSL); Non-designated Supportive Living Sites* (NDSL)

Cc: Seniors Health: Area Directors, Home Care Directors, Home Care Case Managers, Continuing Care Placement Coordinators; Communicable Disease Control (CDC) Outbreak; Environmental Public Health (EPH); Infection Prevention Control (IPC); Medical Affairs

From: Dr. Digby Horne, Medical Officer of Health (MOH) – Central Zone

Subject: Update and Summary of the Discharge/Admission/Transfer Process During Communicable Disease Outbreaks (COVID, influenza, other or mixed respiratory, and gastrointestinal outbreak at either or both sites)

- Communication between the discharging/admitting/transferring sites is required to determine if patient/resident transfers should proceed and to allow the admitting/transfer sites to institute appropriate infection control measures.
 - a) The provincial [Risk Assessment Worksheet \(RAW\)](#) can be used for this communication and has recently been updated.
 - b) A provincial [Risk Assessment Matrix](#) has been developed to provide direction as to when and how the RAW is to be used (IPC webpage – see [Support Materials for Respiratory Outbreaks](#)).
 - c) In instances where the two sites have used the RAW but cannot determine if the discharge should proceed, please consult either Communicable Disease Control Outbreak or MOH on-call:
 - Daily 08:30 to 16:30 hrs. at ph: 1 (888) 522-1919, or email: cd_outbreak@ahs.ca.
 - All other times phone the MOH on-call at (403) 356-6430, or non-urgent email: moh.central@ahs.ca.
- As an additional precaution, sites involved in first-time admissions to (or transfers between) LTC or DSL 3, 4, or 4D sites, the Central Zone Placement Coordinator Office will contact the involved sites the day beforehand to screen for communicable disease activity at either site, regardless of whether or not a RAW was completed.
- Concerns or questions received by CDC Outbreak or the Placement Coordinator Office will be discussed with the MOH on-call.
- During **gastrointestinal** outbreaks at sites, the Environmental Public Health Outbreak Lead will provide direction as to whether a RAW is required or not. EPH can be contacted at 1 (866) 654-7890, or if non-urgent, by email: ahs.cz.eph.diseasecontrolteam@ahs.ca.
- Additional information for congregate living sites can be found at: www.ahs.ca/czmoh (see *Outbreak Management*)
 - [Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Long Term Care and Designated Support Living Sites](#)
 - [Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Non-Designated Supportive Living \(NDSL\) Sites](#)
- NDSL does not include group homes with less than four residents.

The information above is **not** applicable to acute care admissions and transfers between acute care sites. Please contact site IPC if there are questions.

Thank you for your assistance with this process.