

# Outbreak Preparation 2024-2025

## Central Zone

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**Date:** November 7, 2024

**To:** Type A Continuing Care Homes (CCH) (formerly long term care) Site Operators

**Copy:** Seniors Health; Communicable Disease Control Outbreak; Environmental Public Health; Medical Officers of Health; Infection Prevention and Control; Pharmacy Services; Workplace Health and Safety

**From:** Dr. Digby Horne, Medical Officer of Health

Outbreaks of respiratory infections (including influenza and COVID-19) and gastrointestinal infections are possible in Type A, CCH. Outbreak preparation and response is a shared responsibility.

Alberta Health Services, Public Health, kindly requests your assistance in preparing for the 2024-2025 outbreak season. These tasks will help to protect both staff and residents by facilitating an effective response if an outbreak occurs at your site.

1. Ensure that residents have influenza antiviral prophylaxis prescriptions available before an outbreak investigation occurs, or shortly afterwards. Type A CCH AHS sites have an existing process with AHS pharmacy. Type A CCH non-AHS sites who do not contract with an AHS pharmacy can use the [physician fax template to obtain advance standing orders](#).
2. Recommend that all staff receive immunizations for COVID-19 and seasonal influenza. Provide this [Important Notice to Staff About Influenza and COVID-19 Immunizations](#) (hand-out) to all staff, including new hires, until April 30, 2025.
3. Recommend that all residents receive immunizations for COVID-19 and seasonal influenza.
4. Develop a site plan for how to access testing supplies at the time of an outbreak.

## Outbreak Management Resources

- Central Zone Medical Officer of Health (MOH) website: [www.ahs.ca/czmoh](http://www.ahs.ca/czmoh)
- AHS Communicable Disease Control Notifiable Disease & Outbreak Management website: [www.ahs.ca/outbreak](http://www.ahs.ca/outbreak)
  - Guide for Outbreak Prevention Control in Continuing Care Homes
- Health Professional COVID-19 Information: [www.ahs.ca/topics/page16947.aspx](http://www.ahs.ca/topics/page16947.aspx)
- Influenza Information <https://www.ahs.ca/influenza>

## Questions

Central Zone outbreak response questions (including admissions, transfers and discharges) can be directed as outlined below:

Respiratory: Communicable Disease Control (outbreak team)

- phone: 1-888-522-1919 (advise you are calling regarding Central Zone)
- email: [cd\\_outbreak@ahs.ca](mailto:cd_outbreak@ahs.ca)

Gastrointestinal: Environmental Public Health

- phone: 1-866-654-7890
- email: [ahs.cz.eph.diseasecontrolteam@ahs.ca](mailto:ahs.cz.eph.diseasecontrolteam@ahs.ca)

Thank you very much for your partnership in outbreak management!