

Outbreak Preparation 2024-2025

Central Zone

Date: November 7, 2024

To: Supportive Living Accommodation (SLA) Site Operators;
Continuing Care Home (CCH) Type B (formerly designated supportive living) Site Operators; Seniors Health Home Care (Program, Operation, and Case Managers)

Copy: Communicable Disease Control (CDC) Outbreak; Environmental Public Health Seniors Health; Infection Prevention and Control; Workplace Health and Safety

From: Dr. Digby Horne, Medical Officer of Health

Site operators are requested to please take measures outlined below to prepare for and manage outbreaks of respiratory (including influenza and COVID-19) and gastrointestinal illness at your sites. These will contribute to an effective joint-response involving the following groups to protect both residents and staff.

- Home Care Seniors Health
- Communicable Disease Control Outbreak
- Infection Control
- Workplace Health and Safety or Occupational Health Services
- Medical Officer of Health

Although roles and responsibilities can vary, site operators and Seniors Health, Home Care should collaborate to ensure that each site is prepared for the upcoming outbreak season.

Arrange For Influenza Antiviral Prophylactic Prescriptions

Ensure that all residents have Oseltamivir [Tamiflu®] prescriptions available in-advance of an influenza outbreak being confirmed:

- these can be arranged through a single prescriber (physician, nurse-practitioner, or prescribing pharmacist) for the site; **or**
- through the MRP (most responsible health provider) for each resident.
 - Type B CCH sites can work with Home Care Seniors Health
 - SLA sites can work with residents using the following hand-out and form (distribute until April 30, 2025):
 - [Resident Outbreak Preparation \(hand-out\)](#)
 - [Advance Prescription for Oseltamivir \(Tamiflu\)](#) [form 20655]

Encourage and Facilitate Resident and Staff Immunization

- Recommend that residents receive all doses of COVID-19 vaccine for which they are eligible and an annual dose of seasonal influenza vaccine.
- Recommend that staff receive all doses of COVID-19 vaccine for which they are eligible and an annual dose of seasonal influenza vaccine.
 - Provide the [Important Notice to Staff About Influenza and COVID-19](#) (hand-out) to all staff, including new hires, until April 30, 2024.

Develop A Site Plan For How To Access Testing And PPE Supplies At The Time Of An Outbreak

Check your site's inventory of swabs and personal protective equipment (PPE), confirm they have not expired, and plan for how additional supplies can be obtained as required.

Consider Creating An Up-To-Date List Of Residents With Immunization And Antiviral Prophylaxis Prescription Information

Use the *Outbreak Antiviral Prophylaxis in Non-Designated and Designated Supportive Living Sites Worksheet* ([form 20630](#)) throughout the outbreak season until April 30, 2025. This optional worksheet can help ensure timely and effective outbreak management at the facility. Please note the following:

- Information about whether or not residents have received annual influenza vaccine, COVID-19 vaccine, and whether they have a prophylactic antiviral prescription available may be requested by CDC Outbreak.

Utilize Outbreak Management Resources

Recommendations and resources are frequently updated. For the most up-to-date information, please review the following resources frequently:

- Central Zone Medical Officers of Health (MOH) website: www.ahs.ca/czmoh
- AHS Communicable Disease Control Notifiable Disease & Outbreak Management website: www.ahs.ca/outbreak
 - Guide for Outbreak Prevention & Control in Supportive Living Accommodations
 - Guide for Outbreak Prevention & Control in Continuing Care Homes
- Health Professional COVID-19 Information: www.ahs.ca/topics/page16947.aspx
- Influenza Information: www.ahs.ca/influenza

Submit Questions

Central Zone outbreak response questions (including those regarding 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

Gastrointestinal: Environmental Public Health

- phone: 1-866-654-7890
- email: ahs.cz.eph.diseasecontrolteam@ahs.ca

Thank you very much for your partnership in outbreak preparation and management!