

Outbreak Management in Central Zone

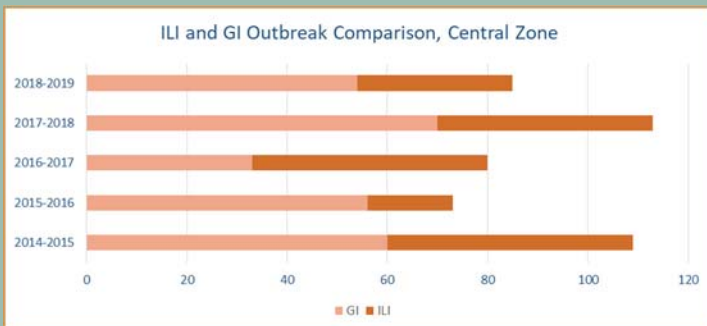
Did you know that since October 2018 Central Zone managed 97 outbreaks?

That is 32 outbreaks less than last season (129); the average duration of an outbreak was 11 days.

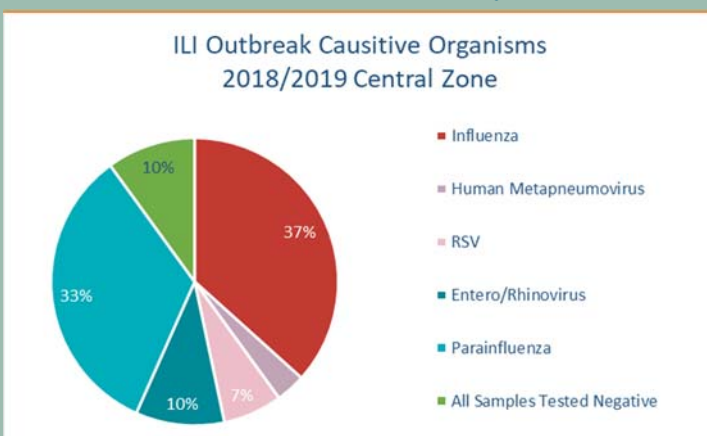
Why investigate outbreaks?

- To help manage and prevent outbreaks from spreading further, reducing deaths and health care costs from hospital visits.
- Respond to public, political or legal concerns.
- Evaluate effectiveness of prevention programs and surveillance, as well as research to better understand natural history of a disease.

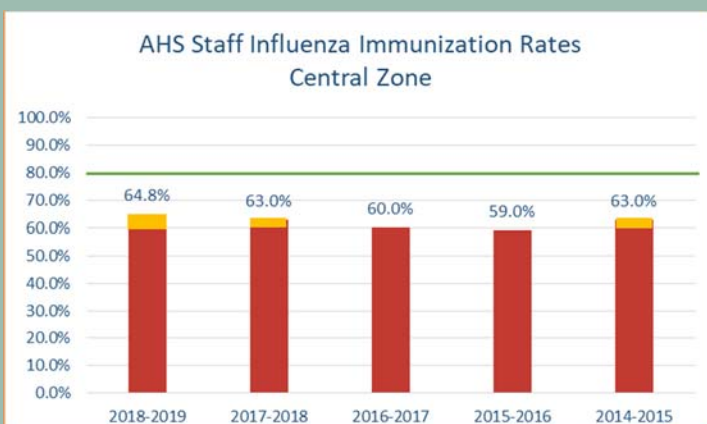
A great majority of the outbreaks we manage are influenza-like-illness (ILI) and gastrointestinal (GI).



Here is a breakdown of the respiratory outbreaks.



Staff and resident influenza immunization is important to help reduce outbreak spread in our facilities. During confirmed influenza outbreaks, unimmunized staff are required to take prophylactic antivirals or not work. Here is a comparison of Central Zone AHS staff immunization rates.



What steps are taken to manage an outbreak?

1. Recognition and Reporting

- Determine if an outbreak exists.
- Staff report location, timing and number of cases.



2. Investigation and Identification

- Lab samples are collected to identify the organism causing the outbreak.

3. Implementing Control Measures

- Ensure appropriate additional precautions are in place i.e.: use of masks, isolation of ill patients/residents, hand hygiene.

4. Follow-up

- Conduct a debrief.

www.ahs.ca/czmoh



Do you know who is involved in managing an outbreak?

CDC/ EPH Outbreak Response Lead

- Initiates investigation and coordinates outbreak management in consultation with the MOH.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- A resource for staff during the implementation of outbreak management protocols.
- Ensures appropriate additional precautionary measures are in place.

Medical Officer of Health (MOH)

- Declares and closes an outbreak.
- Ensures appropriate measures are in place to control further spread i.e.: authorizing antivirals; review transfer requests in/out of outbreak facilities and notifies physicians, pharmacists and facilities about outbreaks.

Site Management and Multidisciplinary Teams at Outbreak Facilities

- Timely reporting of suspect outbreaks and implementation of management protocols.

Workplace Health & Safety (WHS)

- Collaborate with site management to confirm AHS staff immunity and implement work

In summary, everyone has a role to play in outbreak management. Stay home when you are sick, get your annual influenza vaccine, cover your cough, and wash your hands.

We can all work together to keep our outbreak rates low next year.

What role will you take?

