

October 1, 2019

To: Supportive Living/Home Living/Facility Living Managers/Directors/Supervisors/Home Care Case Managers

Re: Outbreak Management Preparations and Expectations

For residents in congregate living settings, site staff and Home Care need to work together with Public Health Nursing, Environmental Health and others to manage respiratory and gastrointestinal outbreaks. Visit and Bookmark the North Zone MOH website www.ahs.ca/nzmoh where all the current outbreak documents and resources can be conveniently located.

Prior to outbreak season, your role is:

1. Print and distribute the linked documents (3 pages total) to residents by October 18, 2019:

- [Resident information letter](#)
- [Advanced Antiviral Prescription](#)

The resident will need to take the advanced antiviral prescription form to their physician or prescribing pharmacist for completion of the antiviral prescription, and bring the last page back to the facility office.

- Please work with your pharmacy provider(s) to determine if they have prescribing pharmacist who may be able to provide an antiviral prescription.
2. Collect and record which residents have completed the antiviral prescription and which pharmacy they are using (final page of resident letter; the antiviral worksheet is a tool you may use to record this information). Follow link to www.ahs.ca/nzmoh
3. Report to your local Public Health office by November 30, 2019:
- The total number of residents completing the antiviral prescription. Names are not required.
 - The total number of residents in your facility

For residents in facility living settings, site staff would typically work with Public Health Nursing, Environmental Health, AHS - Infection Control and others to manage an outbreak.

Prior to outbreak season, please consider the following points regarding antivirals within the context of your facility operations:

1. Administration of antivirals to asymptomatic residents requires consent, and some residents may have an alternate decision-maker. Please have a system to obtain consent for antivirals, with as many as possible completed prior to outbreak season. Follow link [Outbreak Management FAQs](#).

2. Current weight and serum creatinine levels are required for calculation of appropriate antiviral dose (results within last 6 months for advanced prescription and last 12 months if at the time of the outbreak).
3. Dosage calculation for antivirals can be completed ahead of an outbreak by a pharmacist familiar with the resident's medications. Link to [Antiviral Worksheet](#).
4. Physician authorization via prescription, orders, etc. should also be completed in advance.

During outbreak season, your role is:

1. To access outbreak documents visit www.ahs.ca/nzmoh. If you are unable to access/print these documents, please contact your local public health office.
2. Post and follow [Early Outbreak Recognition Checklist: Frontline staff \(Sheet B\)](#)
3. Prompt implementation of initial [infection prevention and control measures \(Sheet C\)](#)
4. Early notification of Public Health using [Early Outbreak Recognition Checklist: Supervisory or administrative staff \(Sheet D\)](#)
5. If MOH declares outbreak, daily completion of line list using [Public Health Outbreak Line List – Congregate Living \(Sheet E\)](#)

Note that reporting of total numbers will be required for both residents and staff:

- number immunized with current influenza vaccine
 - number of asymptomatic residents/staff taking antivirals
6. All transfers/discharges/new admissions require completion of the Risk Assessment Worksheet except any transfers for Emergency care as outlined in the [Risk Assessment Algorithm](#) and [Risk Assessment Worksheet](#)
 7. If testing/swabbing confirms influenza, initiation of antivirals for asymptomatic residents and staff within 24 hours of receipt of swab result
 8. Non-AHS staff – strongly recommend exclusion if not immunized/refuse antiviral.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to outbreak preparation and management. Please provide any address or contact person information updates to Beant Lallh, beant.lallh@albertahealthservices.ca

Sincerely,

Original signed

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