

SECTION: OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT	INDEX I.D.: INF-IV-01
SUBJECT: OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW	PAGE: 1 OF 5
APPROVED BY: DIRECTOR OF CARE	DATE: 25 April 2012
REVIEWED BY: DIRECTOR OF CARE	REVIEW DATE: Sept 1, 2022

STANDARD

Chester Village shall have an outbreak management system for detecting, managing, and controlling infectious disease outbreaks including defined staff responsibilities, reporting protocols based on requirements under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, communication plans, and protocols for receiving and responding to health alerts. The outbreak management system shall include a written plan for responding to infectious disease outbreaks.

INTRODUCTION

Once suspicion of an outbreak occurs, immediate response is essential. Numerous components of an outbreak investigation should occur simultaneously. The sequence of the outbreak investigation components may vary between the different causative organisms of outbreaks. It should be noted that outbreaks are not similar in nature, nor predictable.

OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Home’s Outbreak Management system shall include:

- a. Organizational Risk Assessments
- b. Outbreak Management policies, procedures and protocols
- c. An outbreak management team led by the IPAC lead and staff roles and responsibilities
- d. Approaches to engage residents, staff, volunteers and caregivers
- e. Approaches to engage with the IPAC Hub and local public health
- f. Reporting protocols based on the critical incident system
- g. Protocols for testing, screening for infection and cohorting as required
- h. Processes for accessing additional supports if required
- i. Strategies to address various modes of disease transmission in outbreaks
- j. Processes to ensure that staff have the knowledge and ability to transfer outbreak information from shift to shift for continuity and continuous monitoring of disease and outbreak status
- k. Processes to consider the unique features of the Home in the outbreak management plan such as:
 - The size and physical layout of the Home in relation to isolation and cohorting
 - Staffing supply, mix and models
 - Resident population and unique needs and/or features
 - Impact of outbreaks on residents including impact of social isolation
 - Cultural safety
 - Community impacts

SECTION: OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT	INDEX I.D.: INF-IV-01
SUBJECT: OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW	PAGE: 2 OF 5
APPROVED BY: DIRECTOR OF CARE	DATE: 25 April 2012
REVIEWED BY: DIRECTOR OF CARE	REVIEW DATE: Sept 1, 2022

RISK ASSESSMENT

Organizational risk assessment shall include environmental scan, review of human resources, IPAC training and education of staff and others, availability of IPAC resources and supplies, compliance of staff and others with evidence-based IPAC practices, and strong external support and partnership.

ROLES OF THE IPAC LEAD IN THE OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

- a. Leading the Outbreak Management team
- b. Advising on IPAC practices to manage the outbreak and minimize risks to resident and staff
- c. Assisting with IPAC related resources needed to support the outbreak management response such as PPE
- d. Ensuring that accurate disease related information is tracked and documented
- e. Engaging with the IPAC Hub and local public health when an outbreak is declared and with ongoing outbreak status and response
- f. Implementing changes to IPAC practices as needed to support the outbreak response
- g. Providing IPAC-related education and training to staff and others to support the outbreak response.
- h. Leading the outbreak management team and IPAC team in conducting an outbreak debrief session.

EARLY IDENTIFICATION, CONTROL MEASURES AND COMMUNICATION

Daily review and analysis of routine surveillance is important to ensure early detection &/or prevention of an outbreak.

Appropriate transmission-based precaution, control measures such as additional precautions should be implemented as soon as suspicion of an outbreak occurs.

Communication regarding the outbreak should be established facility wide, with the IPAC Hub and local public health (for Reportable Diseases), the Ministry of Long Term Care and Resident’s families/powers of attorney.

Active or Passive screening with signage posted at the entrances to the facility should instruct visitors not to enter when ill. Staff must be educated to not work when ill.

CONFIRMATION OF AN OUTBREAK:

The existence of an outbreak should be established by:

- 1. Developing a case definition which will be used to identify cases.
- 2. Identification of the infectious agent using laboratory specimens.

CASE MONITORING AND ANALYSIS:

ALL cases should be monitored and analyzed daily to identify; common denominators, onset of illness, duration of illness, and spread throughout the facility.

REPORTING AND DOCUMENTATION:

SECTION: OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT	INDEX I.D.: INF-IV-01
SUBJECT: OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW	PAGE: 3 OF 5
APPROVED BY: DIRECTOR OF CARE	DATE: 25 April 2012
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- Report to the IPAC Hub and local public health upon suspicion of a possible outbreak.
- Following a declaration of an outbreak, notify all stakeholders and submit all required reports and/or initial notifications to the MLTC, LHIN, Wheeltrans, MoL if appropriate etc.
- Ongoing reporting and documenting of all cases involved and ongoing measures to control outbreak until it is declared over
- Conducting a debrief session to assess IPAC practices that were effective and ineffective in the management of the outbreak. A summary of findings will be created that makes recommendations to the Home for improvements to outbreak management practices. See Appendix A for “Outbreak Debrief Session” form

INFLUENZA PANDEMIC PLANNING:

An internal plan for managing an Influenza outbreak that includes staffing, immunizations of residents and staff, use of antiviral medications and supplies of PPE is in place. The Home will follow the current Control of Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes, 2018 guide for influenza outbreak management.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PLANNING:

The Home will follow the current Prevention and Management of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes, Public Health Ontario, June 2022 guidelines and other Public Health Ontario Covid-19 resources for covid-19 outbreak management.

OUTCOME:

An outbreak will be discovered and controlled early by routine surveillance, with immediate communication and reporting to all essential parties, immediate isolation of cases according to the case definition and control of transmission of disease with additional precautions and treatment of cases.

There will be an outbreak management system for detecting, managing and controlling disease outbreaks in the Home.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Standard for Long Term Care Homes (April 2022)
Ontario Regulation 246/22 section 102
Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 section 23
Control of Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes, 2018
Prevention and Management of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes, Public Health Ontario, June 2022
IPAC Resource Manual for Residential Hospice Settings, RICN, 2010.

SECTION: OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT	INDEX I.D.: INF-IV-01
SUBJECT: OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW	PAGE: 4 OF 5
APPROVED BY: DIRECTOR OF CARE	DATE: 25 April 2012
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Appendix A

Disease Outbreak Debrief Session

Type of Outbreak (include causative agent)	
Dates of Outbreak (duration)	
Date of Debrief Session	
Home Areas Affected	
Number of Residents Affected	
Number of Staff Affected	
Effective IPAC Interventions	
Ineffective IPAC Interventions	
Summary of Findings	
Recommendations	

Signature of Participating Staff:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

