

Outbreak Preparedness

Personal Care/Group/Residential Homes

Written Outbreak/Pandemic Plan

Homes should have a plan in place for protecting residents, staff, and visitors from outbreaks as part of their Exposure Control Plan.

Education

- On going Infection Control education and refreshers on routine infection control practices is the most important action your home can take to prevent an outbreak. If one occurs, know how to contain it! See SASWH IPAC course at: <https://rise.articulate.com/share/-vFME217gojfGhTUHBD2QnPaKS3LwJaq>
- Know what to do if you suspect infectious illness in your home:
 - **Don't wait isolate!**
 - Review signs & symptoms
 - Proper hand hygiene
 - Proper PPE use and the donning & doffing process
 - Enhanced cleaning
 - Have posters and other informational materials available to distribute and display

Communication

- keep updated resident information
- develop a process for team communication should an outbreak occur
- contact resident's family & physician

Management Plan

- Suspension of resident services to help contain spread
- Visitor restriction
- Consider alternate plan for safely providing activities for residents

Human Resource/Staff Capacity Planning

- Staffing needs assessment daily
- Cohorting to contain spread
- Sick staff stay home until significantly better for 48 hours or longer if positive for COVID-19 (10 days or per Public Health's direction)

Extra Supplies

Extra PPE (glove, gowns, medical grade masks, face shield – up to a month's supply)

- Use burn rate calculator (saswh.ca)
- Order more supplies at onset of outbreak/pandemic (have a relationship with a reliable supplier)