

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 respiratory and enteric outbreaks as part of their Exposure Control Plan which needs to be *reviewed at least annually*

Education

- Ongoing Infection Control education on routine infection control practices is the most important action your home can take to prevent an outbreak. See SASWH IPAC course at: <https://rise.articulate.com/share/-vFME217gojfGhTUHBD2QnPaKS3LwJag>
- Know what to do if you suspect infectious illness in your home:
 - **Don't wait isolate!**
 - Review signs & symptoms
 - Use proper hand hygiene
 - Determine appropriate PPE use and the donning & doffing process
 - Start enhanced cleaning
 - Have posters and other informational materials available to distribute and display
- Review the Outbreak Management toolkit at <https://www.saswh.ca/infection-prevention-control/outbreak-preparedness-management/>

Communication

- Keep resident information up to date
- Develop a process for team communication should an outbreak occur
- Have current contact information for resident's family & physician

Management Plan

- Be prepared to suspend resident activities to help contain spread. Consider alternate plans for safely providing activities for residents in an outbreak
- Impose visitor screening and restrictions in an outbreak

Human Resource/Staff Capacity Planning

- Assess staffing needs and contingency plan for back-up staffing
- Plan to cohort staff to contain spread of infection
- Sick staff to stay home until significantly better for 48 hours or longer. If positive for COVID-19 (5 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) to determine how much to order
- Order more supplies at onset of outbreak/pandemic (have a relationship with a reliable supplier)
- Ensure staff are trained and fit tested to wear an N95 respirator (required if a COVID positive resident has an aerosol generating medical procedure, ex. CPAP). Don't wait – contact SASWH to have fit testing done before an outbreak occurs

Additional infection control resources can be found at <https://www.saswh.ca/infection-prevention-control/>