

# INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL

## *Project Report to Home Operators*

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## Today's Discussion

Timeline, milestones and activities during the project

Trends and outcomes

Risks, roadblocks and recommendations going forward

# Background information

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- ❖ March 11, 2020 – worldwide pandemic declared
- ❖ Healthcare resources were stretched to capacity
- ❖ Public Health orders were confusing
- ❖ Supply chain issues e.g. obtaining PPE
- ❖ Home operators challenged with maintaining operations

# Initial Response

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Collaboration between SASWH, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Social Services to develop and implement response

Funding secured to hire Infection Control Occupational Health consultants to work with home operators

December 2020: three consultants hired (Kim Bourassa, Jean Pointer and Mary Anderson)

# Highlights from 2020 to 2024

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- Exposure control plan template developed
- Collaboration with SHA on virtual Town Hall forums
- Web page within the saswh.ca web site
- Survey of home operators in 2022
- Education program & knowledge breaks
- IPAC Inspections in 2023

# Consultation Concerns

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Personal protective equipment

Outbreak management

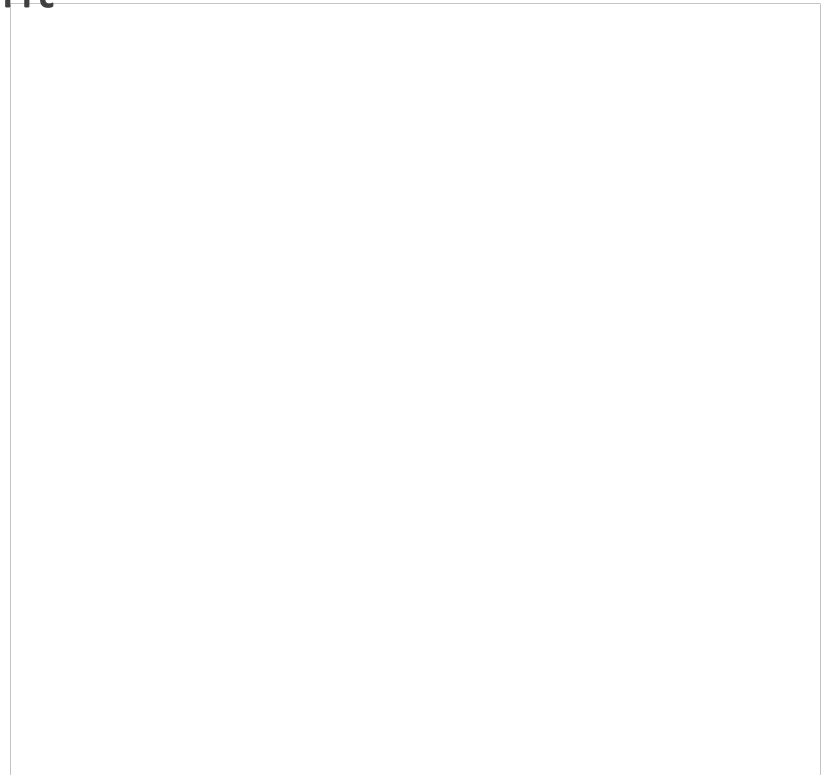
Staff health

Covid testing

Exposure control plans

Vaccines

Education

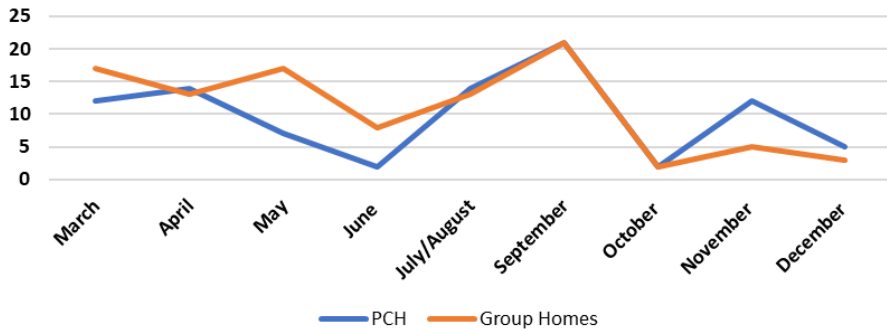


# Outbreak Trends

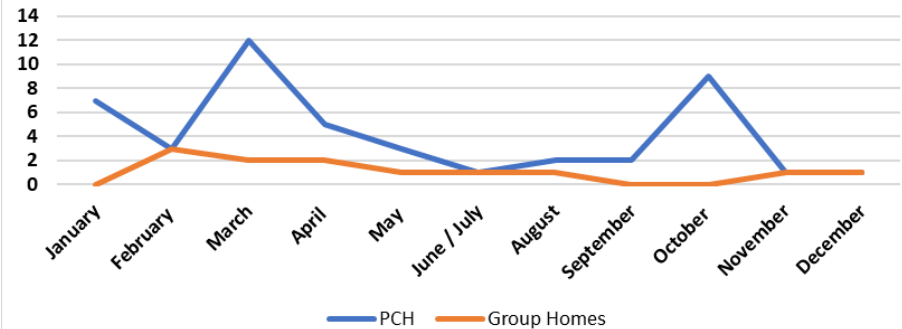
2021

2023

Total # Outbreaks  
March - December 2021



Total # Outbreaks  
January - December 2023



# A Major Milestone.....

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	Average (Mean #) Days on Outbreak January 2022	Median # of Days on Outbreak January 2022		Average (Mean #) Days on Outbreak October 2022	Median # of Days on Outbreak October 2022
PCH (n=7)	43	47	PCH (n=13)	19	15
Group/Residential Homes (n=6)	28	33	Group/residential homes (n=4)	19.5	20.5



# NUMBERS

- 150 visits to IPAC web pages every month
- 126 virtual Town halls, meetings, huddles etc.
- 2 presentations to Personal Care Worker classes at Regina Trades and Skills Center
- 22 Knowledge Breaks

# Potential Risks and Roadblocks

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- Not having a plan; having a plan but not updating it
- Continued access to accurate information
- Supply chain management
- Need for continual education especially fit testing

# Recommendation #1

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- Home operators implement and maintain an infection prevention and control plan
- Resident and staff safety
- Exposure control plans are a legislated OH&S requirement
- Pandemics are predicted to occur every 30 – 50 years

# Recommendation # 2

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Home Operators include a Safety Management System as part of their business plan

A Safety Management System is a coordinated systematic process to managing workplace health and safety risks.

Having a SMS will automatically include having an exposure control plan as well as emergency planning (which will include pandemic planning)

# Recommendation # 3

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Homes should be set up to allow for proper infection control practices e.g. hand wash sinks

Considerations:

Numbers of residents sharing a bedroom

Storage capacity for PPE

Cohorting in an outbreak

Types of building materials

# Recommendation #4

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Licensing bodies to consider making infection control practices and pandemic plans part of the licensing process

This may already be included but the potential to expand the requirement would provide a stronger foothold for operators in the event of another pandemic.

Ministry of Health to be applauded for having the IPAC education program part of the licensing for PCH

# Recommendation # 5

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SASWH to maintain the IPAC page on their web site

Familiar site

Information tailored to PCH and group homes

# Recommendation # 6

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Remaining funds from the Ministries to be used to continue to support home operators regards to infection control and occupational health and safety

Workshop training ideas

Offset costs of ongoing respiratory fit testing



THANK YOU!

Representatives from the MOH and  
MOSS and SHA

Sandra Cripps and Jeff Schwan and  
their staff

Karen Moriarty and Sindi Duncan

Kim Bourassa and Jean Pointer

All of the Home Operators

SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION FOR

**SAFE WORKPLACES**

IN HEALTH

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