

**Section 1 – IPAC: Communicable Disease Outbreak Contingency Plan**

Policy Manual Section:

**Section 7 – Infection Prevention & Control**

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**PURPOSE**

To provide guidelines for the recognition and control of outbreaks of communicable disease within Bay Haven in accordance with the Fixing Long Term Care Act 2021 and Regulation 79, Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) Best Practices for infection Control and Prevention (IPAC) in all Health Care Settings, the Health Protection and Promotion Act, A Guide to the Control of Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Long Term Care Homes, 2018 Recommendations, Control of Gastroenteritis Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes, 2018.

**PROCEDURE**

Daily Surveillance: Refer to “Daily Infection Prevention and Control Surveillance Tool” and “Infection Prevention and Control Surveillance” policies in the Infection Prevention and Control Manual.

Initial recognition of an outbreak is crucial. Rapid response and control measures instituted immediately will minimize the impact of an outbreak.

An outbreak can be defined as an excess number of cases over the norm that appears to be epidemiologically linked and related to the long-term care facility. See listing of "Reportable Diseases" following.



Bay Haven Care Community refers to PIDAC definitions of infection in Section 1 of the Infection Prevention and Control Manual and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s (MOHLTC) definitions of outbreaks.

**Suspected Gastroenteritis Outbreak Definition**

Two suspected cases of infectious gastroenteritis in a specific area, such as a home, unit, or floor within 48 hours.

### **Gastroenteritis Outbreak Definition**

Three, or more cases of infectious gastroenteritis in a specific area within a four-day period, or three, or more units/floors having a case of infectious gastroenteritis within 48 hours. Note: This definition may be modified as the investigation proceeds.

### **Suspect Respiratory Infection Outbreak**

- Two cases of ARI occurring within 48 hours with any common epidemiological link (e.g., unit, floor);

OR

- One laboratory-confirmed case of influenza

### **Confirmed Respiratory Infection Outbreak**

- Two cases of acute respiratory infections (ARI) within 48 hours with any common epidemiological link (e.g., unit, floor), at least one of which must be laboratory-confirmed.

OR

- Three cases of ARI (laboratory confirmation not necessary) occurring within 48 hours with any common epidemiological link (e.g., unit, floor).

Criteria for a potential influenza or COVID outbreak according to The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Respiratory Guidelines is;

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- When an outbreak is recognized, the Medical Director, or his alternate will be notified by the Infection Control Practitioner(s), or designate. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Clinical Services, Communicable Disease liaison will also be notified at once. To reach the Communicable Disease Resource Person during routine office hours, dial 721-7520. After hours, the emergency pager number will contact the public health investigator on call. 1-888-225-7851.
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- Management team meetings will be set up as required and the Director of Nursing (or the designate) will provide daily email updates.
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- The Outbreak Management Team will coordinate the collection of appropriate laboratory specimens and ensure that the correct methods for collection and transportation of specimens are followed.
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- Respiratory
- Upon declaration of respiratory outbreak, the health unit will recommend testing based on the results. Treatment for antivirals may be recommended.
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- See Infection Prevention and Control Manual for policies and procedures related to the collection of a nasopharyngeal swab and administration of antiviral medication. See Medisystem portal for direction on administration of anti-viral medication.
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- Enteric
- The health unit will assist in the investigation, confirmation and management of the outbreak, when notified of a suspect, or confirmed outbreak. The health unit will provide specimen kits and may assist in the transportation of the samples to the public health lab.
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- Control measures are implemented specific to the reportable disease. Control measures may include but are not limited to the following:
  - cohort nursing
  - ongoing staff in-service education to update staff on the specifics of the outbreak
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- See policy and procedure(s); Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in the Infection Prevention and Control Manual.
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- Consideration is given to restriction, or limiting access for visitors to the facility and may also depend on the numbers of persons affected, or symptoms of the initial cases. This will be reviewed by the OMT and the Health Unit liaison at their initial meeting. This decision will be based on consultation between the OMT and the Medical Officer of Health.
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- Long Term Care Homes continue to have an obligation under the *Coroner's Act* to notify the Office of the Chief Coroner of the death of every resident in the home. The Institutional Patient Death Record (IPDR) form will continue to be used for this purpose and has been modified to remove Question 9 regarding the reporting of outbreaks. Outbreaks will continue to be reported by the Long-Term Care Home to local Public Health. A coroner will investigate any outbreak deaths when requested by public health.
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- Once the outbreak is declared over, all data will be analysed by the Outbreak Management Team and the Health Unit to identify possible factors responsible for the outbreak and pinpoint problems experienced in controlling the outbreak. Policies and procedures will be reviewed, and changes made where applicable to improve practices in the event of a future recurrence of infection.
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- The Health Unit liaison should be notified, and the liaison will update the Communicable Disease Team management and the Medical Officer of Health. To notify the Health Unit call:
  - Communicable Disease Team
  - Telephone: (705) 721-7520 ext 8809.
  - After hours: 1-888-225-7851
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- If the Medical Director of the LTCH would like to consult with the Medical Officer of Health on case management of reportable disease, contact the Health Unit liaison to arrange for a consult.
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- If you have any questions about the role of the health unit, please call the Communicable Disease Program at 721-7520 ext 8809.
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- REFERENCES

Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021; Ontario Regulation 79/10 General

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care: Public Health Division (MOHLTC).

Recommendations for the Control of Gastroenteritis Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes – Recommendations for Long-Term Care Homes and Public Health Unit Staff.

March 2018. Available from:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph\\_standards/docs/reference/Control\\_Gastroenteritis\\_Outbreaks\\_2018\\_en.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/reference/Control_Gastroenteritis_Outbreaks_2018_en.pdf)

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Medical DirectorAdministrator

\*signed copy in Section #9 of Manual – Medical Services