

ROLE STATEMENT: Population and Public Health works with you, your family, community and partners. We work with all to promote health, prevent disease and injury, as well as to create healthy places and relationships. Our goal is to educate, advocate and work with people and communities to reduce health differences and to improve everyone's health.

Vision : "Healthy People, Vibrant Communities, Care for All"

The WRHA Population and Public Health Communicable Disease Program works in partnership with other to maximize responsiveness to current and emerging communicable disease in the health region and control the spread of communicable diseases.

Key Service Areas
Communicable Disease Prevention & Management
Environmental Health
Health Equity Promotion
Healthy Sexuality & Harm Reduction
Immunization
Travel Health
Tuberculosis Prevention & Management
Healthy Parenting & Early Childhood Development
Healthy Children & Youth
Healthy Built and Social Environment
Injury Prevention
Mental Health Promotion
Nutrition Promotion
Physical Activity Promotion
Tobacco Reduction
Substance Use
Public Health Information Systems
Surveillance

Key Strategic Approaches



Key Strategic Priorities (2012 – 2017)

Applied Public Health Research
Health Equity Promotion
Health Communication
Healthy Built and Social Environment
Healthy Public Policy
Public Health Information Systems
Program Monitoring

Guiding Principles



Support to PPH Staff

Goal: Staff will have the Confidence, Competence, Expertise and Support to Manage Communicable Diseases

1. Create an inventory of current CD resources. *(Note: Initial brainstorming to occur at one of the monthly CD Coordinator meetings.)*
2. Update intranet (internal site) to ensure all current information is available and remove all CD information from the community areas and the J drive.
3. Continue to provide in person updates to frontline staff in the community area offices at least twice a year. *(Note: Use this opportunity to notify them of any changes to the inventory and to obtain feedback from front line staff.)*
4. Establish and document the process for determining when a public health nurse or CD case manager should be invited to the CD breakfast meetings to discuss complex CD cases. *(Note: Should recognize that the invitation will likely be on an adhoc basis as needed.)*
5. Provide communicable disease updates (in writing) to front line staff on a quarterly basis effective January 2013. *(Note: This will require working in partnership with the epi/surveillance team to define the type of information to be collected, analyzed and reported.)*
6. Adopt a systematic approach to identify the communicable disease knowledge gaps of front line staff and create appropriate resources as needed. *(Note: This approach may include conducting a needs assessment or a practice poll.)*
7. Attend a Nursing Practice Council meeting every 2 months and submit agenda items that will encourage discussion about the challenges and issues staff are experiencing related to communicable diseases. *(Note: Agenda items should be those that have an impact on practice. Example includes providing a summary update of the mumps outbreak investigation.)*
8. Explore the feasibility of offering an Education Forum every other year to increase knowledge and understanding of communicable diseases. *(Note: This could be done in partnership with HSHR; Travel Health and Immunization.)*

RESOURCE IMPLICATION

1. Work with existing resources.

Centralized CD Team Practice Support

Goal: To define and standardize PHN practice as it Relates to the Management of Communicable Diseases

1. Establish a process to identify need for new CD practice guidelines (and establish a prioritization process)
2. Establish a schedule to review and update guidelines
3. Establish a process to communicate guideline changes
4. Identify CD program monitoring needs and share reports weekly
5. Identify CD surveillance needs and ensure staff receive updates annually

RESOURCE IMPLICATION

Work with existing resources

Build Effective Partnerships

Goal: To develop and enhance effective internal and external partnerships

1. Develop an electronic inventory of current and potential communicable disease partners.
2. Sort the electronic inventory list of current and potential partners according to specific area of practice
3. Invite key partners, on a rotation basis, to the last half hour of the CD Breakfast Meetings to discuss their scope of practice and potential partnership opportunities.
4. Continue to maintain and build partnerships by inviting key partners to an information forum hosted by the CD team to be held annually.
(Note: This could overlap with the education forum and in partnership with Travel Health; Immunization and HSHR.)

RESOURCE IMPLICATION

Work with existing resources

Develop Resources for the Public

Goal: To develop, maintain and disseminate relevant evidence informed information for the public

1. Complete an inventory of current CD resources for the public.
2. Identify gaps in resources for the public. (*Note: Team could begin tracking the kinds of request the unit is getting to help identify gaps in resources.*)
3. Identify what should be on the Internet
4. Keep information and resources current
5. Develop a plan to communicate that resources are posted

RESOURCE IMPLICATION

Work with existing resources

Unit Efficiencies

Goal: To optimize efficiency while maintaining a healthy work life balance

1. Map the standard work flow processes for urgent and non-urgent communicable diseases and identify specific roles and responsibilities of all those involved (*Note: Initial brainstorming to occur at one of the monthly CD Coordinator meetings. May want to consider inviting someone from the faculty of Engineering to assist the team with the mapping process.*)
2. Identify workflow redundancies/inefficiencies and revise the map based on these findings. (*Note: Be sure to include coordinator and admin processes*)
3. Update the shared drive and develop a filing convention

RESOURCE IMPLICATION

Work with in existing resources.

Professional Development

Goal: To increase the knowledge and expertise of the Communicable Disease Unit Staff

1. Inventory current opportunities for professional development annually *(Note: Consider innovative professional development opportunities including Webcasts; Bringing in a guest lecturer; Developing an abstract for conference attendance)*
2. Identify CD Unit staff professional development needs (annually)
3. Establish a process for team members to easily evaluate and share relevant information with the rest of the team on a regular basis either as a standing agenda item at team meetings (or biannually?).
4. Identify orientation and core training needs for new and existing CD coordinators to develop and maintain competency. *(Note: consider examples such as; Skills enhancement for public health epi module; Skill enhancement for public health communicable disease outbreak module; Online immunization training)*
5. Explore the feasibility of bringing in subject matter experts/presenters to increase knowledge and understanding of communicable diseases. *(Note: The concept is to bring them to us versus traveling to conferences. This could be done in partnership with HSHR; Travel Health ; Immunization and other regional programs.)*

RESOURCE IMPLICATION

Work with existing resources

Transition to Panorama

Goal: To support implementation of Panorama and it's integration into practice

1. Set up a process for regular Panorama updates to occur at monthly meetings to begin immediately.
2. Identify a coordinator to participate in the planning and implementation of Panorama effective immediately.
3. Provide education and support to PHNs as they transition to the new information management system (Panorama).

RESOURCE IMPLICATION

This has significant coordinator resource implications. Need to further explore options for staffing