

MANAGEMENT OF OUTBREAKS IN ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCES

A cluster is the presence of one or more cases within the facility that have not been connected to each other

Investigation

Public Health

Public Health will:

- Work with ASL directors
- Notify all contacts and provide education

Assisted Living Directors

Directors can proactively

- Be aware of the presence of other cases in the living facility and have infection control measures in place to prevent further spread
- Attempt to identify specific areas/portion of residents affected and institute measures to reduce spread
- Endeavour to mitigate risk of transmission following the guidelines below

Prevention and Control

Staff Screening

Symptomatic individuals should seek testing and self-isolate pending results

Remove barriers to staff staying home when sick

- Encourage staff to stay home when ill, even with mild symptoms
- Review sick leave/return to work policies

Gatherings

Cessation of all communal activities (meals, recreation, etc).

Close communal areas to visitors/residents.

Discourage carpooling for residents and or staff

If carpooling is necessary

- Encourage passengers to sit in different rows of the vehicle
- Increase ventilation with open windows
- Encourage mask wearing for the entire ride

Remind residents and staff of current public health restrictions on social gathering

Ensure adherence to current Public Health Measures including:

- Minimum 6 feet/ 2 metres distance
- Face mask use in all indoor public settings
- Face mask use recommended for outdoor settings where distancing cannot be maintained

Post signs (indoors and outdoors) throughout the workplace setting

Sanitizing/Disinfecting

Ensure a 60% or higher alcohol-based hand sanitizer or portable hand wash stations are available at entrance/exit.

Remove unnecessary high-touch items/surfaces.

Regularly clean workstations and high touch surfaces with minimum 70% alcohol wipes.