PHIMS Entry for Outbreaks/Special Investigation/Clusters

Definitions

When to call an outbreak/special investigation/cluster:

1) Highly Vulnerable Settings
   - A single laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 in a staff member, volunteer, or resident in a highly vulnerable setting defines an outbreak. Highly vulnerable settings include: personal care homes, healthcare facilities, correctional centres, and shelters. The case must have worked or resided at the facility during the period of communicability.

2) Other congregate settings
   - Two or more cases of COVID-19 diagnosed within a 14-day period in the congregate setting, with evidence of transmission occurring within the setting defines an outbreak. Other congregate settings include but are not limited to: schools, daycares, workplaces, food processing plants, laboratories, and shared living quarters.

3) Clusters
   - Three or more cases* of COVID-19 linked to more than one residential address, e.g., extended familial cluster or cluster connected to an event such as a birthday party.

   *Secondary cases that are epi-linked by person/place/time are also given the cluster code. Example: close contacts (i.e., wife) of a positive case who teaches at John Pritchard School. She does not attend John Pritchard School but there is evidence of secondary transmission (i.e., she became symptomatic 4 days after he became symptomatic and tested positive).

SOP

1) Assigning an Outbreak/Special Investigation/Cluster Code
   - If an outbreak or cluster is identified, please contact the CD Coordinator and the PPH Epidemiologist.
   - The CD Coordinator/PPH Epidemiologist will get a code from either Cadham Provincial Laboratory or Manitoba Health. Assigned outbreak codes will be written on the wall by the CD Coordinator in room 119 and emailed out to the nurses.
   - The outbreak (OB), special investigation (SI) or cluster (CL) will be entered as: OBYY_XXX or SIYY_XXX or CLYY_XXX, respectively with the YY being the last two digits of the year and the XXX being the specific number.

2) Outbreak/Special Investigation/Cluster Codes- PHIMS
   There are 3 places that an outbreak/special investigation/cluster code can be entered in PHIMS, the most important field is found in Disease Summary.

a. Disease Summary
- The outbreak, special investigation or cluster code is entered into the Provincial Outbreak Code field found in the Disease Event History section under Disease Summary for both cases and contacts turned case (secondary cases).

This one field is really important. Please enter the code using the exact format (no need to type cluster/OB name).

b. Risk Factors
- The outbreak, special investigation or cluster code is entered into Risk Factors. Select Outbreak Associated (specify name and/or outbreak code)
- Please indicate that the case or contact turned case (secondary cases) is linked to a known cluster, even if the code is not yet known, and specify the setting.

c. Lab Test
- The outbreak, special investigation or cluster code is entered in the Lab Test section; however, if an OB is marked on a lab requisition, the MHSU team will enter this when they receive the positive lab result.