



# VIRAL Respiratory Infection (VRI) **OUTBREAK** In Island Health Long Term Care Affiliate and Private Facilities

CD/MHO completes investigation & risk assessment.

**OUTBREAK DECLARED**

**NO**

Apply Individual Precautions:  
Reduce ill residents' contact with others by applying **DROPLET & CONTACT** precautions, with tray service.

**YES**

## STAFF

### Influenza

- Staff may continue to work in the facility including on OB units regardless of vaccine status.
- MHO may recommend antiviral prophylaxis for unvaccinated staff in a prolonged outbreak. Staff can access antivirals through their own family physician. Staff are not to be excluded from work if they refuse prophylaxis.

## TREATMENT & PROPHYLAXIS – RESIDENTS

### Influenza:

- Prepare for oseltamivir prophylaxis as soon as possible after influenza is confirmed.
- MHO determines if antiviral prophylaxis of residents is recommended.
- MRP assesses appropriateness & orders prophylaxis for individual residents.

### COVID:

- Residents with symptomatic COVID-19 illness to be assessed by their physician for consideration of evidence-based therapy options.

## PRECAUTIONS

- Pause admissions to outbreak unit, unless authorized by MHO.
  - o Inform CD nurse or other designate if there are pending admissions from community who are at intolerable risk or pending admissions from acute care.
- Apply droplet and contact precautions for confirmed/probable resident cases only (no need to apply to others within the outbreak unit).
- Implement additional masking measures and restrictions to visitors in accordance with the direction of the MHO.
- Limit congregation of residents: Suspend communal dining (i.e. provide tray service to all residents on the outbreak unit/floor) and group activities.
- Cohort staff when possible.
- Inform housekeeping of the need for enhanced cleaning for affected rooms, common areas, and high touch surfaces.
- Verify immunization status of all residents. Offer vaccine to any unvaccinated residents and staff.
- Observe all residents of affected unit/floor for symptoms.

## DIRECTOR OF CARE/MANAGER/DELEGATE

- Activate your communication plan for residents, family, staff, volunteers, and visitors.
- Post outbreak signs and alert visitors to go to the nursing station for instructions prior to visiting residents.
- Send tracking tools to CD Program (for all VRIs as per policy).

## OUTBREAK DECLARED OVER

- The CD office, in collaboration with the MHO, will declare the viral respiratory illness outbreak over and inform the DOC/Manager/Delegate