

POLICY: Outbreak Management – Respiratory (including Influenza and COVID-19) and Gastrointestinal

Program Area: Infection Prevention & Control

Section: Infection Prevention & Control

Reference Number: CLI.8011.PL.004

Approved by: Regional Lead – Acute Care & Chief Nursing Officer

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PURPOSE:

To provide best practice infection prevention and control guidelines for outbreak management of respiratory and gastrointestinal (GI) illness in Southern Health-Santé Sud (SH-SS) Acute Care (AC) and Personal Care Home (PCH) settings.

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE:

Executive Limitation (EL-02) Treatment of Clients
Executive Limitation (EL-03) Treatment of Staff
Executive Limitation (EL-07) Corporate Risk

POLICY:

- SH-SS is committed to providing a planned and unified response in AC and PCH facilities for all respiratory and gastrointestinal outbreaks. In particular, respiratory virus season causes a strain on the health care system every year, as outbreaks frequently occur in our facilities.
- Health Care Workers (HCWs) with direct client contact should consider it their responsibility to provide the highest standard of care, which includes annual influenza and COVID-19 vaccination. HCWs are required to follow Routine Practices and Additional Precautions within all healthcare settings when in an outbreak situation. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Hand hygiene using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water,
 - Cough/respiratory etiquette,
 - Point of Care Risk Assessment and
 - Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, gowns, masks, facial protection, eye protection, N95 respirators.

DEFINITIONS:

Client - individual who accesses and/or receives health care related services from an SH-SS facility or program. Clients may be patients in an acute care setting or residents in a personal care home.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- The Southern Health-Santé Sud IP&C Program has modified CLI.8011.PL.004.FORM.01 Outbreak Line List to allow for use in either paper or electronic format.

PROCEDURE:

1. Follow Shared Health – [Infection Prevention and Control Outbreak Management Guidelines – Respiratory \(including Influenza and COVID-19\) and Gastrointestinal](#) for the management of all suspect/confirmed outbreaks.

Acute Care Sites

- AC facility staff are responsible to report suspect outbreaks to the Site Infection Control Practitioner (ICP)/designate promptly. The Site ICP/designate reviews the surveillance information collected and communicate this information to the Regional Coordinator Infection Prevention & Control (IP&C). In the absence of the Site ICP/designate, communicate suspect outbreaks to the Regional Coordinator IP&C who collaborates with the Medical Officer of Health (MOH).
- When in an outbreak, the Site ICP complete/update CLI.8011.PL.004.FORM.02 Outbreak Report. Forward to Staff Development and Regional Coordinator IP&C:
 - Initial CLI.8011.PL.004.FORM.02 Outbreak Report at onset of outbreak.
 - Progress CLI.8011.PL.004.FORM.02 Outbreak Report on Monday and Thursday by 1000 hrs.
 - Final CLI.8011.PL.004.FORM.02 Outbreak Report upon declaring the outbreak over.
- Use SH-SS CLI.8011.PL.004.FORM.01 Outbreak Line List for all suspect/confirmed outbreaks. Fax daily to Regional Coordinator IP&C.

PCH Sites

- PCH facility staff are responsible to report suspected outbreaks to the site Infection Control Support Associate (ICSA). The site ICSA reviews surveillance information collected and communicate this information to the Regional IP&C Nurse – Long Term Care (LTC), who collaborates with MOH.
- When in an outbreak, the Site ICSA completes/updates CLI.8011.PL.004.FORM.02 Outbreak Report. Forward to Staff Development and Regional IP&C Nurse - LTC:
 - Initial CLI.8011.PL.004.FORM.02 Outbreak Report at onset of outbreak
 - Progress CLI.8011.PL.004.FORM.02 Outbreak Report on Mondays and Thursdays by 1000 hrs
 - Final CLI.8011.PL.004.FORM.02 Outbreak Report upon declaring the outbreak over
- PCH facility staff use SH-SS CLI.8011.PL.004.FORM.01 Outbreak Line List for all suspect/confirmed outbreaks – email to site ICSA and Regional IP&C Nurse - LTC by 0900 hrs daily Monday to Friday.

All Sites

- For suspect outbreaks after hours and on weekends, contact the on-call MOH at 204-788-8666.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

[CLI.8011.PL.004.FORM.01](#) Outbreak Line List

[CLI.8011.PL.004.FORM.02](#) Outbreak Report

REFERENCES:

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): [Statements and Publications \(2021\)](#).

Shared Health Manitoba (July 17, 2024). [Guideline: Infection Prevention and Control Outbreak Management Guidelines – Respiratory \(including Influenza and COVID-19\) and Gastrointestinal](#).