



## HOMES AND SENIORS SERVICES

### **POLICY & PROCEDURE NUMBER: 1.4**

**DEPARTMENT:** *Infection Control*

**SUBJECT:** *Role of the Public Health Unit*

**APPROVAL DATE:** April 2004

**REVISION DATE:** April 2007; March 2016

**REVISION DATE:** March 2017; November 2018

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### **POLICY:**

Southwestern Public Health unit is responsible for ensuring that infection control programs are in place in all Long-Term Care Homes in the County of Elgin.

The Elgin County Homes work in close cooperation and ongoing communication with the Elgin St. Thomas Public Health Unit.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of the Southwestern Public Health Unit:**

- Representation of Professional Advisory Committee (including Infection Control meetings)
- Ongoing consultation about surveillance programs through the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Consultation on the development and revision of infection control policies
- Collaboration in the development of an outbreak contingency plan
- Informing the Home about the required reporting of designated communicable diseases and outbreaks of disease to the Medical Officer of Health
- Ensuring compliance with Ontario Food Premises Regulations
- Annual promotion of influenza vaccination to staff and residents
- Promotion of pneumococcal vaccine for residents
- Provide current information on evidence based and prevailing practices.

Southwestern Public Health Unit works with the Infection Control Committee to investigate and follow up cases of reportable diseases that occur in the Homes.

**Public Health must be notified of all outbreaks and reportable diseases promptly.  
This can be done by calling (519) 631-9900.**

Southwestern Public Health Unit also has a role in reducing the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases and works with long-term care homes to achieve the goals of:

- Coverage for pneumococcal vaccination in residents; and
- Coverage for annual influenza vaccination of residents and long term care home staff