



HOMES AND SENIORS SERVICES

POLICY & PROCEDURE NUMBER: 1.4

DEPARTMENT: *Infection Control*

SUBJECT: *Role of the Southwestern Public Health and Ontario Health West IPAC Hub*

APPROVAL DATE: April 2004

REVISIONDATE: March 2016

REVISIONDATE: March 2017; Nov. 2018; Nov. 2022

REVIEW DATE: December 2019;

Dec. 2020

Page 1 of 2

POLICY:

Southwestern Public Health unit is responsible for supporting the County of Elgin Homes infection prevention and control team in ensuring that an effective infection control program is in place which meets applicable ministry legislation, directives and guidance.

The Elgin County Homes IPAC lead/program manager and team will work collaboratively and remain in ongoing communication with designated staff of Southwestern Public Health and Ontario Health West IPAC Hub.

Roles and Responsibilities of Southwestern Public Health:

- Representation of Professional Advisory Committee and Infection Prevention and Control team meetings
- Ongoing consultation regarding surveillance programs
- Consultation on the development and revision of infection prevention and 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 and COVID-19 vaccination to staff and residents
- Promotion of pneumococcal vaccine for residents
- Provide current information on evidence based and prevailing practices.
- Provide guidance and information on new novel diseases deemed a significant organism of concern

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

Southwestern Public Health must be notified of all outbreaks and reportable diseases promptly.

This can be done by calling (519) 631-9900.



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Page 2 of 2

Southwestern Public Health 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
- Coverage for COVID-19 vaccination of residents, staff and caregivers

In addition to Southwestern Public Health collaboration, the IPAC lead/program manager and team shall collaborate with the Ontario Health West IPAC Hub representative at ontariohealth.ca regarding IPAC policy, procedures, standards, protocols, and evidence based best practices.

Contact information (name, email and phone number) for the IPAC lead, Manager of Resident Care and Administrator shall be provided to the local Medical Officer of Health, and the designated contact at Ontario Health West IPAC lead.

References:

- Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021
- Ontario Regulation 246/22