



HOMES AND SENIORS SERVICES

POLICY & PROCEDURE NUMBER: 5.9

DEPARTMENT: *Infection Control*

SUBJECT: *Outbreak De-escalation*

APPROVAL DATE: November 2022

REVISION DATE:

REVIEW DATE:

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PURPOSE:

Unique challenges may be faced with declaring COVID-19 outbreaks over when compared with other respiratory outbreaks. Discussions around the effectiveness of control measures assessed with Southwestern Public Health, and enhanced surveillance for cases and adherence to IPAC measures should continue. De-escalation is to occur after any outbreak to evaluate, improve quality, and strengthen the outbreak management process.

PROCEDURE:

Assessment of Risk for De-escalation by:

Preparing for de-escalation of Infection prevention and Control (IPAC) measures towards the end of and/or following a COVID 19 Outbreak is managed on a case by case basis by the outbreak management team, attending physician and in consultation with Southwestern Public Health.

Precautionary Principle will also be considered to guide decision on end of outbreak given the following considerations:

- deemed appropriate with use of the most current medical evidence
- guided by the key principles as set out in the ethical framework.
- consider recommendations including those of a provincial scientific table, and the Chief Medical Officer of Health appointed under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, where available.

Declaration of End of Outbreak:

- Made by SWPH lead and IPAC Program Manager
- Provide notification of the end of the outbreak to all staff, residents and families of residents who were notified of the start of the outbreak.
- Remove all signage.
- Re-stock any supplies depleted during the outbreak (i.e. Swabs for viral testing and PPE)
- Additional cleaning of the affected common areas of the home.
- Remain Alert for possible new cases in staff or residents.
- Continue to actively screen residents and staff
- Report any newly identified cases in a timely manner to SWPH, and IPAC Program Manager

Debrief:



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As part of the process, the OHS lead, Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC), or health and safety representative, and the interdisciplinary IPAC team are engaged to ensure that processes are established for the de-escalation of practices and the precautionary principle is taken into consideration. To be discussed, recorded and any recommended changes implemented for future outbreak situations:

1. Communication.
2. Timeliness in recognizing and reporting outbreak.
3. Timeliness in initiating control measures.
4. Effectiveness of control measures in the outbreak.
5. Number of resident cases.
6. Number of staff cases (associated with the outbreak).
7. Number of any visitors, volunteers, support staff, etc. that became cases.
8. Duration of the outbreak; date it was declared – date it ended.
9. Any comments or feedback provided by SWPH.
10. Ensure current evidence and up to date recommendations were implemented.

Resources:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/flu-influenza/influenza-surveillance/about-fluwatch.html#ab1>

De-escalation of COVID-19 Outbreak Control Measures in Long-term Care and Retirement Homes; PHO; 05/04/2021

Minister's Directive: COVID-19 response measures for long-term care homes; August 30, 2022
Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021,

O. Reg. 246/22