

Infectious Diseases Institutional/Facility Outbreak Prevention And Control Protocol

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Purpose

- The purpose of this Protocol is to provide direction to boards of health with respect to the prevention, detection, and management of infectious disease outbreaks of public health importance, including but not limited to respiratory and gastroenteritis outbreaks in institutional settings and facilities such as hospitals, long-term care homes, day nurseries and other institutional/facility settings.

Requirements Listed in Standard

Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control Standard

Requirements:

- Requirement #7:
 - The board of health shall ensure that the medical officer of health or designate is available on a 24/7 basis to receive reports of and respond to infectious diseases of public health importance in accordance with the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*; the *Mandatory Blood Testing Act*; the *Exposure of Emergency Service Workers to Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2008* (or as current); the *Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2008* (or as current); the *Institutional/Facility Outbreak Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008* (or as current); and the *Public Health Emergency Preparedness Protocol, 2008* (or as current).
- Requirement #8:
 - The board of health shall provide public health management of cases and outbreaks to minimize the public health risk in accordance with the *Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2008* (or as current); the *Institutional/Facility Outbreak Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008* (or as current); and provincial and national protocols on best practices.

Protocol Highlights

Roles and Responsibilities of Board of Health (BOH):

General

- Develop and maintain written policies and procedures in regards to infectious diseases outbreaks in institutional/ facility settings.
- Addresses specific actions boards of health shall take in order to assist institutions/facilities with outbreak management.

Protocol Highlights

Detection, Investigation and Identification

- Work with institutions/facilities in developing a mutually agreed-upon early identification surveillance system to accurately assess a probable or confirmed outbreak.
- Inform institutions/facilities that they should report to the medical officer of health all infectious diseases of public health importance.

Protocol Highlights

Notification

- Provide assistance regarding infectious disease outbreak assessment within 24 hours of receiving outbreak notification.
- Arrange for obtaining any environmental, clinical or other samples to assess, evaluate, confirm and control an institutional/facility outbreak.

Protocol Highlights

Management

- Monitor outbreaks on an ongoing basis and suggest modification(s) of outbreak control measures as required, including ongoing surveillance of populations at risk.
- Declare whether an outbreak is over, in consultation with the institution/facility.
 - Use the most current available epidemiological data and best practices/guidance documents.
 - The medical officer of health retains the final authority to determine if an outbreak is over.

Protocol Highlights

Management

- Review the response to outbreaks after they have been declared over, evaluate the management and impact of outbreaks, and assist in formulating preventive measures going forward.

Protocol Highlights

Data Collection, Reporting, Information Transfer

- Communicate as soon as possible with the ministry about any occurrences involving increased virulence or suspicion of a novel or emerging infectious disease.
- Provide a final report to the institution summarizing the outbreak and highlighting areas for improvement in the future.

Cross References

- Food Safety Protocol, 2008
- Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2008
- Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008
- Risk Assessment and Inspection of Facilities Protocol, 2008

Supporting Documentation

- A Guide to the Control of Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes October, 2004
- A Guide to the Control of Enteric Disease Outbreaks in Health Care Facilities, 1993
- Clostridium Difficile Associated Disease (CDAD) Outbreak Manual (to be released winter 2008)

Questions & Answers

- Q: How often should BOHs assist institutions in establishing and reviewing written outbreak response plans?
A: At a minimum every two years.
- Any additional questions?

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