

Appendix IV Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines

Excerpt

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pub/pubhealth/manprog/mhp.pdf>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious diseases remain an important cause of both morbidity and death in the community. Infectious diseases represent constant new challenges to public health's role as new organisms emerge as causes of disease. Others, not previously a public health problem, develop increased virulence or antibiotic resistance and become a new burden for public health infectious disease control programs. Surveillance, case-finding, contact tracing, immunization, infection control and risk assessment all work together to assure effective control of infectious diseases by public health. Public health professionals must remain vigilant to ensure that systems are in place that are capable of controlling all infectious diseases.

The programs defined are both general and specific in nature. The Control of Infectious Diseases outlines the general requirements for all Reportable and Communicable Diseases, as well as the emergency response structures which should be in place to deal with outbreaks. Specific programs are directed at controlling the potential for infectious disease in food and water. In addition, programs are directed at specific disease control requirements for sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS, tuberculosis, rabies and vaccine preventable diseases for which there are Ministry of Health immunization programs. Infection Control defines requirements for assuring that effective infection control techniques are in place in institutions, day care centres and personal service settings.

Goal

Infectious diseases will be reduced or eliminated.

Control of Infectious Diseases

Goal

To reduce the incidence of infectious diseases of public health importance.

Objective

To reduce morbidity and mortality associated with infectious diseases.

Requirements and Standards

1. The board of health shall provide:
 - a) an on-call system that ensures 24-hour availability of appropriately trained and qualified board of health staff to respond;
 - b) assessment of a reported incident and a first response within 24 hours;
 - c) written outbreak response plans which include coordination with the public health laboratory;
 - d) identification and appropriate response to outbreaks; and
 - e) an infectious disease policy and procedure manual with current relevant information on all reportable diseases under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

2. With respect to cases of Reportable Diseases and amendments, as outlined in Ontario Regulation 559/91 and Ontario Regulation 569, the board of health shall:
 - a) receive and investigate reports, in accordance with the Health Protection and Promotion Act;
 - b) apply provincial case definitions to reported cases as defined in the Reportable Diseases Information System manual;
 - c) provide on-going monitoring, including computerized data collection and analysis and application of results; and
 - d) forward reports to the Ministry of Health, including weekly transmission of data through the Reportable Diseases Information System.

3. With respect to cases of Communicable Diseases, as outlined in Ontario Regulation 558/91, the board of health shall:
 - a) receive and investigate reports in accordance with the provisions of the Health Protection and Promotion Act;
 - b) apply provincial case definitions to persons reported to be infected with an agent of a Communicable Disease as outlined in the Reportable Diseases Information System manual;
 - c) ensure public health management of persons found to be infected with an agent of a Communicable Disease in accordance with the infectious disease policy and procedure manual of the board of health; and
 - d) ensure the identification and appropriate management of contacts of persons found to be infected with an agent of a Communicable Disease in accordance with the infectious disease policy and procedure manual of the board of health.

4. The board of health shall provide information regarding infectious diseases to health care professionals, institutions and the community. This information shall be provided a minimum of once per year, through written material and/or presentations.

5. The board of health shall ensure implementation of the Ministry of Health *Notification of Emergency Service Workers Protocol (August 23, 1994)*.

6. The board of health shall provide or ensure the availability of travel health advice and immunizations for travelers.