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## ENTERIC OUTBREAK CONTROL MEASURES CHECKLIST

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**Approved by:** HIPACC

**Effective Date:** July 7, 2022

**Issued By:** Infection Prevention & Control

**Review Date:** NEW

**Department(s)** Long-term Care

**Version:** 1

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This checklist is for use during institutional outbreaks of respiratory disease. It lists the actions you should take to limit the spread of disease during the outbreak.

### Consult with KFL&A Public Health

- Obtain outbreak number from KFL&A Public Health.
- Begin an enteric line listing; fax to KFL&A Public Health.
- Obtain stool samples from ill residents using enteric outbreak kits and send to Public Health Lab. On the weekend, consult with KFL&A Public Health on-call manager before obtaining stool samples.
- After hours, store samples in refrigerator (not freezer) and deliver to the lab the next business day.

### Notification

- Call families and notify them of the outbreak.
- Notify visitors - post signs on entrance doors to facility.
- Notify the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care compliance advisor.

### Implement droplet and contact precautions

- Increase hand hygiene. Alcohol-based hand rub containing at least 70% alcohol is preferred when hands are not visibly soiled.
- Reinforce hand hygiene with staff, residents, visitors and volunteers. Assist residents with compliance.
- Gloves - upon entry to room, discard after use, perform hand hygiene.
- Gowns - for direct resident care; fluid resistant preferred.
- Masks and eye protection for vomiting or explosive diarrhea.

### Environmental controls

- Increase cleaning frequency of high touch surfaces.
- Increase cleaning and disinfection of washrooms and commodes to twice daily for rooms in isolation.
- Dedicate resident care equipment to ill resident; if not dedicated, clean and disinfect between residents.
- Handle linen and garbage carefully.
- Ensure chemical concentration of the disinfectant meets manufacturer's instructions and the solutions are changed frequently; pay special attention to contact times.



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### Outbreak management team meeting

- Form an outbreak management team with representation from each operational area of the facility, include those with decision-making authority and a representative from KFL&A Public Health.
- Differentiate between a sporadic case and an outbreak-associated case when identifying the last outbreak-related resident and staff case.

### Residents

- Restrict cases to room for 48 hours after last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.
- Medical and other appointments - if unable to reschedule, notify transfer service and infection control practitioner at the receiving hospital or facility regarding details of the outbreak (whether resident is a case).
- Limit large group activities throughout facility.
- Small group activities on affected unit - well residents only.
- No communal activities with outside groups on affected unit.
- Group activities on unaffected units may continue.

### Staff and volunteers

- Exclude ill staff and volunteers for 48 hours after last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.
- Cohort staff - if possible dedicate staff for ill residents only or assign staff who have recovered from the illness.
- Working at other facilities is not advised but will depend on individual facility policy.

### Visitors

- Visitors should not enter facility if they are ill; post signage.
- Limit number of visitors while resident is in isolation; provide education on hand hygiene and use of personal protective equipment.

### Admissions and transfers

- New admissions - preferably to non-affected unit or floor; inform family, not currently ill
- Re-admission - cases: provide appropriate isolation; non-cases: allowed.
- Transfers to other long-term care homes - consult infection control practitioner at the home, advise transfer service.



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- Transfer to hospital - advise hospital and ambulance or transfer service and infection control practitioner at receiving hospital.

**Ongoing monitoring**

- Conduct ongoing surveillance to identify new cases.
- Monitor status of ill residents and staff.
- Update line listings of residents and staff; fax daily to KFL&A Public Health (not on weekends).
- Audit for compliance with control measures.

**Declare outbreak over**

- Consult with KFL&A Public Health to determine when to declare outbreak over.
- Review audits: Has there been sustained adherence to infection control outbreak measures including hand hygiene, use of personal protective equipment, environmental and equipment cleaning?