

INFECTION CONTROL MANUAL

POLICY: ICO001

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OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT – ENTERIC ILLNESS

An outbreak is defined as a greater than expected number of epidemiologically linked cases of enteric illness among residents or staff. A surveillance system for nosocomial infections is an essential component and will provide for early recognition of an outbreak.

PURPOSE:

To provide a practical organized approach to control the spread of enteric illness among residents and staff.

POLICY:

When an outbreak is suspected, the following procedures will be followed.

PROCEDURE:

1. Infection Control Practitioner, Director of Resident Care or designate will:
 - Notify the Administrator
 - Notify the Middlesex-London Health Unit with the following information
 - ❖ Number of residents
 - ❖ Number of staff
 - ❖ Symptoms presented
 - ❖ Set up initial outbreak management team meeting
 - ❖ Notify MOHLTC via Critical Incident Reporting system of outbreak
 - ❖ Amend CI when outbreak declared over,
2. The outbreak management team (OMT) shall consist of:
 - ❖ Chairperson of the Infection Pharmacy Advisory Committee
 - ❖ Infection Control Practitioner
 - ❖ Director of Resident Care
 - ❖ Administrator
 - ❖ Medical Director
 - ❖ Food services supervisor
 - ❖ Environmental Services supervisor
 - ❖ Public Health Nurse from the M.L.H.U.

Optional staff would include

 - ❖ Maintenance
 - ❖ Recreation Supervisor
 - ❖ Office Staff
3. OMT Committee will designate a chairperson. The chairperson will assume overall responsibility for prompt implementation of team discussions and control measures, set up meetings, keep minutes and distribute and communicate progress and discussion with others.
4. The OMT will:
 - ❖ verify an outbreak
 - ❖ establish case definition
 - ❖ identify number of cases to date and dates of onset
 - ❖ determine possible type of infection and its characteristics
 - ❖ define overall principles of control
 - ❖ institute immediate measures to interrupt transmission of the infectious agent, using outbreak control measures provided by the MLHU at the onset of outbreak.
 - ❖ ensure posting of proper signage to indicate type of outbreak and initial precautions
5. Should a staff member contract enteric illness currently being treated in facility while working at facility and subsequently is absent from work due to illness, a Form 5 for the Ministry of Labour must be completed and faxed to them within 48 hours [Form 5 found on share file].
6. Should an outbreak be declared, a representative of Unifor & ONA will be notified of the outbreak.
7. If an employee works at a facility and there is an enteric outbreak, they may continue to work at both facilities provided they shower and change uniforms before entering each home.

8. If a staff member becomes ill with enteric symptoms, they must be 24 hours symptom free before returning to work.

EVALUATION:

Policy and procedure will be reviewed annually by the Infection Control Officer in consultation with Infection & Pharmacy Advisory Committee.

This policy also appears in the Emergency Plans Manual.