

VIRAL Respiratory Infection (VRI) Outbreak in Island Health Long-Term Care Affiliate & Private Facility

Staff

Influenza:

- Staff may continue to work in the facility including on OB units regardless of vaccine status
- MHO may recommend antiviral prophylaxis for unvaccinated staff in a prolonged outbreak. Staff can access antivirals through their own family doctor. Staff are not to be excluded from work if they decline prophylaxis

Treatment & Prophylaxis – Residents

Influenza:

- MHO to determine if antiviral prophylaxis of asymptomatic residents is recommended. Prophylaxis to continue until OB declared over or per MHO direction. Facility should consult with Family Physician(s) for consideration of treatment dose of antivirals for symptomatic/lab confirmed residents.

COVID:

- Residents with symptomatic COVID-19 illness to be assessed by their physician for consideration of evidence-based therapy options

Additional Precautions

- Pause admissions, unless authorized by MHO or delegate, and inform the CD RN if there are pending admissions from community who are at intolerable risk or pending admissions from acute care
- Continue to isolate symptomatic residents in their rooms on DROPLET and CONTACT precautions, with tray service for meals.
- Visitors are restricted in accordance with the direction of the MHO
- Masking as per Provincial direction for the 2023/2024 VRI Season (whether an OB is declared or not):
 - Continuous medical masking is required by Health Care Workers, visitors, contractors, volunteers, and families when present in resident care areas in the facility and during interactions with residents
 - Visitors are also required to wear a medical mask in all common areas, and when participating in any indoor events in common areas of the facility. Masks are not required for visitors when they are **alone** with a non-symptomatic resident in a single occupancy room, or in a common area where no else is sitting
- Limit congregation of residents: suspend communal dining (i.e. provide tray service for all residents on affected unit) and group activities
- Cohort staff to best ability

Director of Care/Manager/Delegate

- Post outbreak signs and alert visitors to go to the nursing station first
- Inform/email Communicable Disease Program as soon as you get a positive **influenza** result for a resident. Send tracking tools to CD Program daily (for VRIs as noted).

Housekeeping

- Enhanced cleaning for all affected rooms, all common areas, and high touch surfaces

Outbreak Declared Over

- The CD office in collaboration with MHO will declare the viral respiratory illness outbreak over and inform the facility DQC Manager/Delegate

CD/MHO complete investigation and risk assessment

YES

Outbreak Declared

NO

Maintain Enhanced Measures:

Continue to isolate ill residents in their rooms on DROPLET and CONTACT precautions, with tray service.