

Enhanced Surveillance and Precautions for COVID-19 in Long-Term Care

Criteria:

One Long-Term Care (LTC) staff diagnosed with COVID-19 has worked in a LTC facility during the infectious period, without high-risk exposure to residents or staff.

An **outbreak** of COVID-19 is **not** declared during enhanced surveillance and precautions. An outbreak will be declared in the following circumstances:

- A high-risk exposure has occurred (e.g. a staff case has had a breach in PPE during contact with residents or while in close contact with other staff).
- More than one staff case with symptoms onset within 14 days.
- A resident of the LTC facility has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- At the direction of the Medical Health Officer (MHO), based on risk of transmission.

Note: when an outbreak is declared, the MHO, VCH Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC), and VCH LTC Operations will manage the outbreak following the [Outbreak Protocol for COVID-19](#).

Measures for enhanced surveillance and precautions:

- **Increase symptomatic screening of residents** to twice daily, using the standardized form provided by VCH.
 - When symptoms are identified among residents, immediately take a viral specimen (NP swab) for lab testing and isolate the resident(s) under contact and droplet precautions.
- **Continue to screen all staff and visitors for symptoms** on arrival to the LTC facility, using the standardized form provided by VCH.
- Confirm that no staff are working at multiple LTC facilities.
- Meeting will be scheduled at the direction of the MHO, with VCH IPAC, VCH LTC Operations, and leadership personnel for the affected LTC facility.
- Continue to follow the direction for [routine non-outbreak operation of LTC facilities](#) during the pandemic.
- Physicians should continue to provide care following the VCH Regional LTC Physician COVID-19 Response Principles and Guidelines.
- Enhanced surveillance and precautions will be implemented for 14 days after the last date of potential exposure, which may be reduced or extended at the direction of the MHO.

Some measured are **not** required during enhanced surveillance and precautions:

- **Admissions, re-admissions, or transfers** do not need to be restricted.
- **Visits** by family members and companions do not need to be restricted.
- **Non-essential services and group activities** (including meals in common areas) do not need to be suspended.
- **Notification** of all residents, families, staff, and other service providers is not required (i.e. through letters or signage)
- **Staff cohorting to specific units** is not required.
- **Asymptomatic screening tests** for residents and staff should only be implemented under direction of the MHO.

Note: These and other measures may be required at the direction of the MHO, based on assessment of the specific scenario.

