

Long-Term Care Facility Pre-Season Planning for Viral Gastrointestinal Viral (VGI) and Viral Respiratory Illness (VRI) Activity

Home	2025/26 Season		
Action	Done	Initials	Comments
1. Identify an Outbreak Lead: Name: _____ Contact #: _____			
2. Verify contact information for Public Health and IPAC Practitioner Public Health Contact Details (Viral Respiratory Illness) Email: MHOandCDNurseOnCall@vch.ca Communicable Disease Environmental Health Officer (Viral Gastrointestinal Illness) Email: CDEHO@vch.ca Infection Control Practitioner Contact Details: Email: ICP-LTC@vch.ca Primary ICP: _____ Phone: _____			
3. Outbreak Management Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify administrative support. Update the Outbreak Management team (OMT) template. Identify phone numbers and emails for notification in the event of an outbreak in your facility Share a copy with the ICP covering your home and place in outbreak binder on the units 			
4. Prepare for influenza treatment and prophylaxis OSELTAMIVIR (Tamiflu): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update pre-printed Physician Pre-printed Orders for Vaccines & Tamiflu. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal Community of Care ORDERS INFLUENZA OUTBREAK ORDERS ADULT Richmond INFLUENZA OUTBREAK ORDERS: LONGTERM CARE (ADULTS) Vancouver Influenza Outbreak Orders Contracted and Private site template Example of Pre-Printed Orders for use of OSELTAMIVIR (Tamiflu®) during an 			

<p><u>INFLUENZA OUTBREAK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include medical contraindications to the above. (Residents who have received treatment dose will not need prophylaxis after completion of treatment) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide your pharmacy with the weights, ages, gender, and serum creatinine levels for all residents for calculation of Tamiflu dosage 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-arrange with your pharmacy to obtain antiviral medication in a timely fashion, in preparation for an outbreak 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain renal function and plan how to manage any drug-drug interactions for those eligible for antiviral therapy. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare <u>staff influenza prophylaxis letter</u> • Antiviral prophylaxis (Oseltamivir) should be offered to unimmunized staff who may be at high risk of influenza complications due to their <u>underlying chronic health conditions</u> • Oseltamivir is recommended until the outbreak is declared over or until it has been 14 days since influenza vaccination, whichever is sooner. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>BCCDC Virology Requisition</u>** • <u>SampleContainerOrderForm</u>** no longer outbreak kits- order individually • <u>New Staff Vaccine Reporting Requirements</u> • <u>Recommended vaccines for health care workers</u> 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For sites with Agency staff ensure staff are aware of masking policy (if in effect) 			
<p>5. Prepare for the administration of influenza, pneumococcal, and COVID-19 vaccines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Pre-Printed Orders - Coastal</u> • <u>Pre-Printed Orders - Richmond</u> • <u>Pre-Printed Orders - Vancouver Acute</u> (includes LTC) <p>Co-administration of COVID-19 and influenza vaccines are recommended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Guide SOP</u> 			
<p>Influenza</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Nurse Immunizer status and requirements regarding nurse immunizer for staff immunization-including <u>Peer Nurse Immunizer Program</u> • Additional educational resource • <u>BCCDC Influenza Immunization Competency Course: Foundations of Influenza Disease & Vaccines</u> 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on WHO recommendation, all influenza products are trivalent this year. 			
COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Nurse Immunizer status Additional educational resource <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCCDC COVID-19 Immunization Competency Course COVID-19 vaccine offers protection of Omicron LP.8.1. variant strain for fall 2025 The dose is recommended to be administered at 3 months from last COVID dose COVID-19 vaccine timing for individuals after infection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For previously vaccinated individuals: Vaccination may be deferred until 3 months after symptom onset, or after the positive test date for asymptomatic cases. For individuals who have not completed their primary series: Vaccination may be deferred until 8 weeks after symptom onset, or after the positive test date for asymptomatic cases. If individuals are moderately to severely immunosuppressed, a shorter interval of 4 to 8 weeks may be considered. 			
Pneumococcal conjugate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV20) to those residents who have not previously received a dose of Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (PPV23) or Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV20 or PCV21). This vaccine is given once and can be given at any time during the year. Note: there is no booster dose requirement for PCV20 at this time. If vaccine history is not available from the client or in Care Connect, immunize with pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. 			
Vaccine Allocation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTCs in Vancouver will receive vaccine as per previous years. LTCs in all other Communities of Care will receive vaccine directly from the local VCH health unit. For additional vaccine ordering support email CDCVaccines@vch.ca 			
Vaccine Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer influenza vaccine annually to ALL residents, new admissions, staff, physicians, and volunteers who work in the facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to BCCDC Immunization Manual Biological Products webpage. Administer COVID-19 vaccine bi-annually to ALL residents and new admissions. Keep a record of the immunization status of the residents/staff/physicians/volunteers that is always easily accessible by the nursing/medical staff. 			

<p>Vaccine Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track influenza & COVID-19 immunizations using an excel document. Report resident Influenza & COVID-19 immunizations to the VCH Vaccine Reporting Survey (formally called Checkbox Survey) on the following dates: Oct 31, Nov 30, and Dec 31, 2025 (final deadline). Contracted and Private LTC Sites must also report total staff influenza immunizations by Dec 31st, 2025. 			
<p>6. Review stock of PPE supplies required for the facility and order additional supplies as necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owned and operated sites to order through ePro Contracted/private sites through their regular supply process 			
<p>7. Review supplies required for residents on precautions,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure sites have closed PPE carts, over bed tables, utility tables, signage printed and laminated or on wipe able paper, in room garbage/ linen/personal laundry hampers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure the supplies are on site and accessible Identify storage space for supplies. Develop a process for ensuring supplies available and reorder as necessary Ensure there is a process for managing PPE carts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection Placement Cleaning and Disinfection of PPE Carts LTC AL.pdf (vch.ca) 			
<p>8. Ensure you have up to date fit tested staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify residents on CPAP/BIPAP/ Nebulizer treatment and have a care plan in place in the event the resident developed a viral respiratory illness during VRI season. Annual fit testing is required as Airborne precautions are required for residents suspected or known to have a VRI and use CPAP/BiPAP/ Nebulizer treatment. <p>Resources for fit testing: Owned and Operated: VCH Intranet Contracted and Private: Safe Care BC</p>			
<p>9. Review stock of swabs/feces container/TDG supplies and monitor expiry dates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the use the SampleContainerOrderForm and email kitorders@hssbc.ca or fax 604-707-2606. Call PHSA CDC Receiving at 604-707-2507 for more information. VRI order # of swabs for Influenza/other respiratory viruses <p><small>COPAN (red-top) + Universal Transport Media</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VGI order # of feces containers for Virology 			

<div data-bbox="289 154 642 214" data-label="Text"> <p>Plastic container, 118 mL, with metal cap</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owned and operated site can order through E-Pro: Order # 00090607 Microbio UTM 2 ml mini tube + nasopharyngeal flocked swab. Establish a process for restocking swabs and identify who is responsible. Ensure there are supplies to comply with Federal Transport of Dangerous goods requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Canada SHIPPING INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES Transportation of Dangerous Goods – Category B Viral Respiratory Infection Specimen Transportation of Dangerous Goods - Specimens by Ground (Learning Hub) <p>Supplies for TDG boxes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Owned sites DG packaging can also be purchased through PeopleSoft (eProcurement): VCH # 00023292, item description: CONTAINER TRANSPORT SAF-T-PAK For contracted and private sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://upwardpackaging.com/un-packaging/biological-packaging https://www.uline.ca/BL_5312/Biological-Substance-Shipper Review the process for picking up TDG boxes at the VGH Lab. 			
<p>Identify Courier to BCCDC*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All specimens will be going to BDCCDC Ensure courier is identified in outbreak binder on the units 			
<p>10. Education for staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the leaning hub annually: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infection Prevention and Control Basics for Health CareWorkers in Patient Care Areas and/or Direct Care Roles Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point-of-Care Risk Assessment Point-of-Care Risk Assessment, do I need PPE? Point-of-Care Infographic How to Hand Wash Video Hand Hygiene Using ABHR Video Donning video Doffing video Available education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand Hygiene Training Video See website for: 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Line list Education 2025/26▪ Outbreak Education 2025/26▪ Declutter units and rooms			
<p>11. Review the Public health and infection Prevention and Control information with staff. Develop a binder for frontline staff with all the relevant information. Documents to review include, but are not restricted to the Frontline Staff Toolkits published here:</p> <p>Outbreaks</p>			