

Memo

To: Hospitals, Long Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes

From: Sarah Titmus, Program Manager – COVID Response

Date: May 13, 2022

Re: HNHU COVID-19 case management, new line list template and reminders

Dear Hospitals, Long-Term Care Home and Retirement Home partners

We would like to provide a number of updates and reminders related to COVID-19 and respiratory illness.

Reporting to Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit

On April 19, 2022, the Ministry of Health released updated [Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario](#). A significant change is that there are no PHU requirements for individual level case follow up for case management. HNHU is updating our practice to align with Ministry guidelines so that as of May 12, 2022 HNHU will no longer be calling individual COVID-19 cases for case management.

Highest risk settings that fall under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA)* must report suspect and confirmed respiratory and enteric outbreaks to their local public health unit as per the *HPPA*. HNHU kindly asks that you continue to notify HNHU when your facility is in suspect or confirmed outbreak by calling the health unit Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm at 519-426-6170 ext. 9999 or call your public health nurse contact directly. For after-hours reporting, call our emergency number at 1-877-298-5888.

As a reminder, the definitions for COVID-19 outbreaks in LTC/RH:

- A **suspect COVID-19 outbreak** is defined as one positive molecular test OR rapid antigen test in a resident
- A **confirmed COVID-19 outbreak** is defined as two or more residents and/or staff/other visitors in a home (e.g., floor/unit) each with a positive molecular test OR rapid antigen test AND with an epidemiological link* within a 10-day period
*epidemiological link defined as: reasonable evidence of transmission between residents/staff/other visitors AND there is a risk of transmission of COVID-19 to residents within the home.
- Hospitals are advised to use outbreak case definitions as per [COVID-19 Guidance: Acute Care](#)

New Line List Template for COVID-19

HNHU has updated our line listing template to a fillable PDF form. The new line listing templates are attached and can be found on HNHU's website <https://hnhu.org/health-topic/highest-risk-settings/>

Reminder from Public Health Labs

Public Health Labs would like to remind facilities the following for ordering tests appropriately:

- Please do not photocopy the requisition. Respiratory viruses should only be checked on the requisition when required and appropriate and not photocopied for all residents in a facility.
- A reminder that Multi-respiratory virus PCR (MRVP) should be ordered on up to four symptomatic cases in an outbreak. If additional tests are required due to spread, suspect resistance, etc. call Public Health Ontario to arrange testing.
- Please do not order MRVP on asymptomatic clients.

Reminder: Algorithm for Managing Contacts in LTCHs and RHs

The Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Guidance for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units includes a helpful algorithm on how to identify and manage contacts for COVID-19. Please print and post this algorithm for easy access.

Reminder: Notifying Physicians/Healthcare Providers

HNHU would like to remind LTC/RHs to please follow your process of appropriate notification of resident's healthcare providers when illness is diagnosed. This is especially relevant as antiviral treatment, Paxlovid, is available for higher-risk individuals with COVID-19 and needs to be initiated within 5 days of symptom onset.

Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines: Recommended Doses

The Ministry of Health has changed its language from "fully vaccinated" to "up to date" when referring to COVID-19 vaccination status.

- **Up to date** means a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including any booster dose(s) when eligible.

Please update vaccine records to reflect this so that the information is ready when needed for outbreak management. Please refer to [Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines: Recommended Doses](#) for more information.

For questions, please contact our COVID-19 hotline at 519-426-6170 ext. 9999.