

Outbreak of Influenza-like Illness at LTCF

Quick Reference Guide



WHAT IS AN OUTBREAK?

A single resident with a positive flu test plus other cases of respiratory illness

OR

Two or more residents with influenza-like illness (ILI) including two or more of the following symptoms:

- fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$)
- nonproductive cough
- myalgia
- pharyngitis

WHAT TO DO IF AN OUTBREAK IS SUSPECTED?



01

Collect specimens within 72 hours of symptom onset from 4-6 residents for laboratory testing

02

Treat symptomatic residents with antivirals; do not wait for laboratory confirmation of flu

03

Start a line list to keep track of cases in both residents and staff

04

Report ILI outbreak to the Health Department by calling 802-863-7240

The Health Department will ask about

- Symptoms, symptom onset, case totals (for staff & residents), exposure, treatments, outcomes, & actions taken

TAKE ACTIONS TO CONTROL THE OUTBREAK

- Stop taking new admissions and transfers when possible
- Discourage symptomatic visitors
- Follow droplet precautions for symptomatic residents
- Encourage symptomatic residents to practice respiratory hygiene
- Ensure that ill employees do not work
- Do not float staff between units
- Provide training in infection control measures and hand hygiene for staff
- Restrict symptomatic residents to their rooms, or cohort on the affected unit
- Limit group activities
- Serve meals in room
- If a resident is transferred to another facility during an ILI outbreak, notify the receiving facility of the outbreak whether or not the individual has symptoms
- Offer influenza vaccine to unvaccinated staff, residents, and new admissions throughout the flu season



Refer to the Health Department **Influenza Prevention & Control Measures for Long-Term Care Facilities Guide** for specific details.