

QUICK REFERENCE TO DETECTING & MANAGING OUTBREAKS

SUSPECT AN OUTBREAK WHEN:

COVID-19

There is **one** positive molecular test in a resident of a **LTCH or Retirement Home**, where the source of acquisition is thought to be from within the home (including a potential epidemiological link to a staff or visitor case) or cannot be determined.

OUTBREAK CONFIRMED WHEN:

COVID-19

There are **two or more** residents/clients in **LTCH/Retirement Home/Congregate Living Setting** with a common epidemiological link (e.g., same unit, floor, area, etc.), each with a positive molecular or rapid antigen test, within a 10-day period.

NEXT STEPS:

1. **DON'T WAIT, ISOLATE.** Encourage ill residents to stay in their rooms. Follow routine practices and addition precautions.

Individuals with a high-risk exposure to the case(s) should follow sector specific guidance; Ministry of Health [Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario](#) and [LTCH RH Guidance and Other Congregate Living Centres for PHUs](#)

2. Start an *Institutional Outbreak Line Listing*. Use a separate line list for each affected unit and one for staff and please fax to 705-482-0670.
3. Contact the Communicable Disease Control Program at the Health Unit.
After Hours/Weekends: 705-474-1400/1-800-563-2808; then press "0" for the answering service. During Business Hours: 705-474-1400/1-800-563-2808 ext. 5229 or the CDC staff assigned to your facility.
4. Collect specimens from affected residents/clients.
5. Advise hospital infection control/receiving facility, EMS workers and transfer agencies of outbreak prior to any transfer or outpatient procedures, even if resident/client is not from an affected area.
6. New admissions and return of residents/clients who have not been line listed are generally not recommended. If admission is necessary, consult with the Health Unit and the facility's infection control contact.
7. Symptomatic staff, students and volunteers:

COVID-19

See sector specific guidance [Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario](#) and [LTCH RH Guidance and Other Congregate Living Centres for PHUs](#)