

Outbreak Resource Update



November 2024

Updated Case Definitions:

Ministry of Health

Ontario Public Health Standards:
Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability

Infectious Diseases Protocol

Appendix 1: Case Definitions and Disease- Specific Information

**Disease: Respiratory Infection
Outbreaks in Institutions and Public
Hospitals**

Effective: September 2024

Updated Respiratory Case Definitions:

Case Definition

Confirmed Respiratory Infection Outbreak Definition

- Two or more patient/resident cases^a of test-confirmed^b acute respiratory infections (ARI) with symptom onset within 48 hours^c and an epidemiological link (e.g. same unit/floor/service area) suggestive of transmission within the setting.

OR

- Three or more patient/resident cases^a of ARI with symptom onset within 48 hours and an epidemiological link suggestive of transmission within the setting AND testing is not available or all negative^d.

Suspect Respiratory Infection Outbreak Definition

- Two patient/resident cases^a of ARI with symptom onset within 48 hours with an epidemiological link (e.g. same unit/floor/service area) suggestive of transmission in the setting AND testing is not available or all negative^d.

Updated Outbreak Reference Document:

Recommendations for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Institutions and Congregate Living Settings, 2024

Ministry of Health

Effective: October 2024

ARI Case/Contact Management:

- **Cases:** On Additional Precautions until 5 days from symptom onset or when symptoms have resolved (whichever is shorter). Recommend masking until day 10 from symptom onset
- **Contacts:** Roommates with ongoing exposure – on Additional Precautions for 5 days, then recommend masking until day 10
- **Contacts:** Roommates who have been moved – on Additional Precautions for one incubation period (or 5 days if pathogen unknown) then recommend masking until day 7
- **Other close contacts:**
 - Strongly encouraging the resident to wear a well-fitting mask, if tolerated, when receiving care and when outside of their room for 7 days following their last exposure to the individual with ARI.
 - This may include avoiding attending group dining and group activities that involve unexposed residents where masking cannot be maintained by the close contact.

COVID-19 Case/Contact Management:

- **Cases:** On Additional Precautions for a minimum of 5 days from symptom onset; and until symptoms are resolving x 24 hours. Should mask until day 10 from symptom onset (remain in precautions if unable to mask)
- **Contacts (same as ARI):** Roommates with ongoing exposure – on Additional Precautions for 5 days, then recommend masking until day 10
- **Contacts:** Roommates who have been moved – on Additional Precautions for one incubation period (or 5 days if pathogen unknown) then recommend masking until day 7
- **Other close contacts:**
 - Strongly encouraging the resident to wear a well-fitting mask, if tolerated, when receiving care and when outside of their room for 7 days following their last exposure to the individual with ARI.
 - This may include avoiding attending group dining and group activities that involve unexposed residents where masking cannot be maintained by the close contact.

Declaring the Outbreak Over:

Same for ARI and COVID-19:

- “8-day rule” - based on a typical period of communicability of 5 days + an incubation period of 3 days (variable depending on pathogen, but generally apply)- same for COVID now
- Considerations for resident vs staff last case- same for COVID now
- If last case is a roommate that has already been in isolation, can end (on case by case basis in consultation with the health unit)

Resources:

- Case Definitions:
 - [Appendix 1 Respiratory Outbreaks](#)
 - [Appendix 1 Gastroenteritis Outbreaks](#)
- Guidance Documents:
 - [Recommendations for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Institutions and Congregate Living Settings](#)
- Outbreak Resources:
 - [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Website](#)
- Outbreak Reporting and Support:
 - SMDHU Infectious Disease Team – 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8809 or afterhours evenings, weekends and holidays:
1-888-225-7851
- IPAC Resources:
 - North Central IPAC Hub - <https://www.rvh.on.ca/ipac-hub/>
 - [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Website](#)

Questions



Thank you!