

# OUTBREAK NEWSLETTER

January 2024

## DE-BRIEF

### **The outbreak has been declared over, now what?**

Following the outbreak, the facility and the PHU will meet to review the course and management of the outbreak. The purpose of this meeting is to review what was handled well and what could be improved for managing future outbreaks.

### **Who should be at the debrief meeting?**

All members of the OMT should take the opportunity to review the outbreak.

### **What can we reflect on at the debrief meeting?**

- What worked well?
- What could be improved?
- What was learned?
- Identify future preventative actions

## THE OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT TEAM

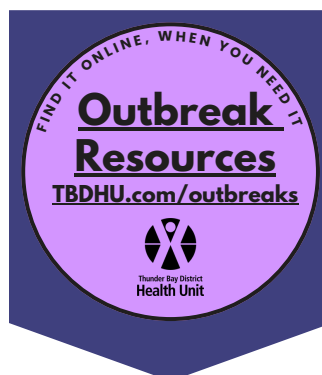
Once an outbreak is declared, an outbreak management team (OMT) is established and its members attend all outbreak-related meetings. The team should include, but is not limited to representatives from the following areas:

- Medical Director
- Director of Nursing and Personal Care
- Administrator
- Chair of the Infection Prevention and Control Committee
- Occupational Health
- Food Services
- Recreation
- Director of Housekeeping/Maintenance
- Public Health Unit Representative

These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss control, transmission, and further prevention. The outbreak meetings should allow for discussions and questions from all members of the outbreak management team.

## OUTBREAK RESOURCES

The TBDHU has moved all outbreak related resources into one easy-to-find location including outbreak management checklists, pre-filled lab requisitions & collection instructions, direct links to relevant guidance documents, and more!



## REMINDER TO FRONT-LINE STAFF:

Be on the lookout for clients with respiratory or enteric symptoms, ensure they are quickly isolated and perform testing as soon as possible. The sooner it is noticed, the sooner we can stop the spread!



Thunder Bay District  
Health Unit  
IPAC HUB

### Want to connect with others that have a passion for infection prevention and control?

Join us at our CLS Community of Practice Meetings to network and share your IPAC knowledge with other professionals that work within congregate living settings!

### Need mentoring and support as your facilities' CLS IPAC Champion?

Check out our IPAC Champion resources on our [website](#). Join our group meetings to build your IPAC knowledge and use those skills to strengthen and enhance IPAC best practices within your setting. Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 20th from 1:30pm-3:00pm.

### Enjoy engaging and interactive IPAC activities?

Our team can provide tailored on-site IPAC support and fun educational awareness activities for you and your staff. Have your IPAC Lead or Champion reach out to us so we can work together on custom activities that suit your needs.

**To attend any of our meetings or to request on-site IPAC support please email the team at [IPACHub@tbdhu.com](mailto:IPACHub@tbdhu.com)!**

## RESPIRATORY ILLNESS DASHBOARD

The TBDHU *COVID-19, Influenza and Viral Respiratory Illness Dashboard* serves as a comprehensive platform providing up to date data and insights into COVID-19, influenza, and other respiratory illness activity within the Thunder Bay District Health Unit region. This dynamic dashboard is updated Thursday mornings with the latest overview of statistics and trends, offering a valuable resource for both health care professionals and the public.

For up to date information on the status of respiratory illness in the city of Thunder Bay and the District, please visit our website at [www.tbdhu.com/datadashboard](http://www.tbdhu.com/datadashboard)

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION TIPS

Check expiry dates on outbreak kits before collecting samples.

REMEMBER to add the outbreak number to the requisition – the lab prioritizes testing of outbreak samples.

Only test correct samples under the outbreak number – i.e. do not collect respiratory swabs under an enteric outbreak number.

Ensure you are using the correct kits.

Find testing instruction sheets and information on ordering supplies on Public Health Ontario's [Kit and Test Ordering Instructions webpage](#).



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