Respiratory Outbreak Control Measures Checklist

Facility: _____ **Date:** _____

Date Outbreak Declared: _____ **Outbreak #:** 2262- _____

Health Unit Contact: _____

Infectious Disease Program intake line: 807-625-8318

IMMEDIATE CONTROL MEASURES FOR OUTBREAK

- ☐ Isolate symptomatic residents, implement droplet precautions & encourage hand hygiene.
- ☐ Notify staff of potential outbreak.
- ☐ Start Line Listing of symptomatic residents and staff and fax separately to secure fax line: **807-625-4822.**
- ☐ Collect Nasopharyngeal (NP) Specimens to send to Public Health Lab, ideally within 48 hrs of symptom onset.
- ☐ Notify the Thunder Bay District Health Unit of potential outbreak by calling **807-625-8318** or after hours 807-624-1280 and ask for ID on call.

Nasopharyngeal (NP) Specimen Collection:

- ☐ Check expiry dates on swabs and ensure residents name, collection date, and date of birth are on all specimen containers.
- ☐ Collect nasopharyngeal swabs on symptomatic residents only. MRVP testing will be run on the first 4 samples, and subsequent samples will undergo FLUVID testing during institutional outbreaks.
- ☐ Complete all sections of requisition.
- ☐ Include outbreak number provided by PHU on requisition.
- ☐ Ensure collection swab is capped **tightly** before placing into biohazard bag, and place requisition in outside pocket.
- ☐ Refrigerate sample, and arrange for transport to PHL within 72hrs of collection.

Control Measures for Residents:

- ☐ Isolate symptomatic residents on Droplet / Contact Precautions.
- ☐ Encourage hand hygiene practices and have alcohol-based hand rub available.
- ☐ Do not share equipment between residents if possible OR thoroughly clean and disinfect between use.
- ☐ Cohort residents whenever possible.

Control Measures for Staff and Volunteers:

- ☐ Provide education to staff on routine practices, additional precautions, environmental cleaning and disinfection.
- ☐ Cohort staffing when able. Staff working on affected unit / floor should not work in non-outbreak areas.
- ☐ Report illness to charge person; list symptoms and onset date.
- ☐ Exclude ill staff, students and volunteers from the facility.
- ☐ Staff/volunteers who work in more than one facility should notify the facility NOT in outbreak and follow their policy regarding exclusion.

Control Measures for Visitors:

- ☐ Notification of visitors through signage (at entrances and resident rooms).
- ☐ Notification of all agencies contracted to work in the facility.
- ☐ Ill visitors are not permitted in the facility.
- ☐ Encourage vaccination where applicable.
- ☐ Encourage well visitors to reschedule their visit if possible; if necessary, instruct visitor to:
  - » Clean hands before and after visit.
  - » Use appropriate PPE for direct care of ill residents.
  - » Visit only one resident, clean hands and exit facility.

Environmental Cleaning:

- ☐ Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces.
- ☐ Increase cleaning and disinfection of ill resident's immediate environment.
- ☐ Promptly clean and disinfect surfaces contaminated by stool and vomit.
- ☐ Use appropriate products for cleaning and disinfection as *per PHO Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Health Care Settings*.

Admissions, Re-admission, and Transfers:

- ☐ Admissions/transfers/return from absence decisions may be made in consultation with TBDHU and the OMT.
- ☐ Notify Hospital Infection Control department if transferring resident to hospital.

Medical Appointments:

- ☐ Re-schedule non-urgent appointments.

Communal Activities:

- ☐ Cancel or postpone large gatherings and group outings.
- ☐ Small gatherings for well residents only, consult with Health Unit.
- ☐ Conduct on-site programs such as physiotherapy for isolated residents in their rooms, and after well residents, if possible.

Additional Control Measures for Influenza:

- ☐ Offer antiviral prophylaxis to all residents and start within 48hrs of symptom onset for maximum effectiveness.
- ☐ Offer influenza immunization to non-immunized residents.
- ☐ Staff who refuse influenza vaccination should be given the option of taking antiviral medications in order to continue their duties within the facility.

Download the most current version of this document at:

TBDHU.com/outbreaks under the "Outbreak Management - Quick Reference and Flowcharts" tab

Please note: treatment decisions are the responsibility of the attending physician.
For antiviral medication information, refer to "Recommendations for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Institutions and CLS's – Feb 2025"