

# Steps for Early Identification of Outbreaks

## 1 Conduct Surveillance

Daily assessment of residents for respiratory or enteric symptoms.

### Respiratory

Symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, congestion, sore throat, hoarseness, difficulty swallowing, fever or abnormal temperature, breathing difficulty, loss of appetite, malaise or muscle pain.

### Enteric

Two or more unexpected incidents of diarrhea and/or vomiting within 24 hours.

## 2 Suspect an Outbreak

Contact Public Health Sudbury & Districts early about any suspected outbreak.

### Respiratory

- When one case is laboratory-confirmed influenza.
- When there are two cases of acute respiratory tract illness detected within 48 hours in one unit or floor.

OR

- When more than one unit has a case of acute respiratory illness within 48 hours.

### Enteric

- When there are two cases of enteric illness detected within 24 hours in one unit or floor.

OR

- When more than one unit has a case of enteric illness within 24 hours.

## 3 Initiate Action for Outbreak Management

- Implement Infection Control Measures for Routine Practices and Transmission-Based Precautions.
- For respiratory outbreaks call: 705.690.1939 (business hours); 705.688.4366 (after hours)
- For enteric outbreaks call: 705.522.9200, ext. 464 (business hours); 705.688.4366 (after hours)
- Complete the Preliminary Report of an Institutional Outbreak form and fax to: Respiratory: 705.677.9618  
Enteric: 705.677.9607
- Initiate two separate line lists, one for residents and one for staff. Fax to Public Health Sudbury & Districts daily before 10 a.m.
- Follow Public Health Sudbury & Districts directions to obtain specimens for laboratory testing (NP swabs for respiratory symptoms, stool samples for enteric symptoms).
- Implement the Public Health Sudbury & Districts Respiratory/Enteric Outbreak Control Measures.
- Maintain daily contact with Public Health Sudbury & Districts to review additional cases.