

TITLE:	Outbreaks, Epidemics & Pandemics	POLICY #:	XVIII-P-10.00
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MANUAL	Emergency Management	APPROV. AUTH:	Administrator
ORIGINAL ISSUE:	July 2022	SCOPE:	Sun Parlor Home
PAST REVISIONS:			
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Outbreaks, Epidemics & Pandemics Policy #: XVIII-P-10.00

POLICY:

The Home will be prepared to respond in the event of an outbreak, epidemic, and/or pandemic, including outbreaks of a communicable disease and outbreaks of a disease of public health significance.

It is noted that in the event of a pandemic, information and requirements may change rapidly as the situation evolves. Provincial mandates will supersede local practice as the highest authority where applicable.

DEFINITIONS:

Outbreak: An outbreak is a sudden rise in the number of cases of a disease and it carries the same definition of epidemic, but is often used for a more limited geographic area.

Endemic: the usual incidence of a given disease within a geographical area during a specified time period.

Epidemic: an excess over the expected incidence of disease within a given geographical area during a specified time period. If the expected number of cases of a disease in a province is 8 per year, and 16 occur in 1 year, this indicates an epidemic. It should be noted that an epidemic is not defined on the absolute number of cases but on the number of cases in comparison to what is expected.

Pandemic: an epidemic spread over a wide geographical area, across countries or continents, usually affecting a large number of people. It differs from an outbreak or epidemic because it:

- affects a wider geographical area, often worldwide.
- is often caused by a new virus or a strain of virus that has not circulated among people for a long time. Humans usually have little to no immunity against it. The virus spreads quickly from person-to-person worldwide.
- causes much higher numbers of deaths than epidemics.
- often creates social disruption, economic loss, and general hardship.

PROCEDURE:

The Administrator or designate will:

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- 1) Reference the respective divisional Infection Prevention & Control manual for detailed outbreak preparation and response requirements:
 - IX LTC Infection Prevention & Control
- 2) Ensure an area(s) of the Home is identified to be used for isolating residents as required.
- 3) Ensure a process is in place to divide both team members and residents into cohorts as required.
- 4) Ensure staffing contingency plans are in place and kept current.
- 5) Ensure annual practice/testing of outbreak and pandemic preparedness, inclusive of any arrangements with external entities who may be involved in or provide emergency services in the area where the Home is located (including, without being limited to, health service providers, partner facilities and resources that will be involved in responding to the emergency).

The Infection Prevention & Control Lead or designate will:

- 1) Participate in developing, updating, evaluating, testing, and reviewing the Home's emergency plans as related to outbreaks of a communicable disease, outbreaks of a disease of public health significance, epidemics and pandemics.
- 2) Involve the Medical Director (as applicable) and Public Health Unit in development and annual review of the location's emergency plans as related to outbreaks of a communicable disease, outbreaks of a disease of public health significance, epidemics and pandemics.
- 3) Ensure process in place for inspection of outbreak/epidemic/pandemic supplies for functionality, expired dates, and restocking as needed. **References:**

Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health Practice, Third Edition: An Introduction to Applied Epidemiology and Biostatistics:

<https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dsepd/ss1978/lesson1/section11.html>

IX LTC Infection Prevention & Control Manual

Attachments: XVIII-P-10.00(a) Sample Agenda – Outbreak Preparedness Drill (Leader Copy)
 XVIII-P-10.00(b) Sample Agenda – Outbreak Preparedness Drill
 XVIII-P-10.00(c) Outbreak/Epidemic/Pandemic Supplies