

## Tool 1: Outbreak Prevention and Management Team

(Adapted from PICNet Respiratory Infection Outbreak Guidelines for Healthcare Facilities November 2018)

Organizational Leadership for infection prevention and control should be established and maintained in all health care settings, including Long Term Care facilities, to ensure effective and efficient outbreak prevention and management. Long Term Care facilities will find that formation of an *Outbreak Prevention and Management Team* is the best way to prevent, prepare for and manage viral respiratory or gastrointestinal outbreaks. Specific members of the Outbreak Prevention and Management Team are designated to:

- Know the Outbreak Prevention and Management Protocols well
- Communicate with Public Health when questions arise
- Ensure that actions recommended in the Protocols are used in the Care Community

Individuals should be designated to perform these functions such that there is coverage at all times, including after normal work hours, on weekends and on holidays.

### Outbreak Prevention and Management Team (OPMT)

Individuals responsible for prevention and control efforts should review the strategic Pre-Season Planning, Preparation and Prevention CHECKLIST to update Care Community policies and practices and take all recommended preparative steps, especially:

- Prevention strategies
- Strategies to increase resident, staff, and Care Community resilience to viral outbreaks
- Surveillance steps to:
  - recognize a suspect respiratory illness outbreak
  - promptly take the appropriate actions, including collecting and submitting laboratory specimens,
  - promptly introducing all indicated infection control measures
- Contacting Public Health/Infection Prevention and Control ([Tool 2](#))
- Working with your Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner on day-to-day prevention and control practices and special consultation as needed ([Tool 2](#))

Though the number and designations of members of an OPMT may vary with the type and size of a Care Community, the following list is useful to consider in building an effective Respiratory Outbreak Prevention and Management Team:

- Care Community Medical Director
- Administrator
- Director of Nursing or Director of Long-Term Care
- Person in your Care Community who has responsibility for Infection Prevention and Control
- Housekeeping/Laundry Supervisor
- Food Services Supervisor
- Pharmacist or other representative from the Pharmacy that supplies the Care Community
- Front-Line Staff Member
- Union Representative
- Person who will be involved in Communications

Clear definitions, communication and assumption of specific roles and responsibilities are particularly important for effective Outbreak Prevention and Management.