

# Important Health Notice

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## Information for Healthcare Professionals

# FRI Outbreak in Toronto Nursing Home

### Highlights:

- **Control measures for individuals with a febrile respiratory illness and a link to Seven Oaks Nursing Home identified**
- **Personal protective equipment measures for staff**

Dear Colleagues:

The following is being provided to update you on the outbreak at a Toronto nursing home:

- revised case definition is as follows: sudden onset of fever with malaise and/or anorexia, with or without runny nose and nasal congestion or cough
- currently 68 of 249 residents and 8 of 290 staff are line listed as ill, 30 (including 7 staff/visitors) have been admitted to hospital for treatment. There have been six deaths among residents. Some residents are improving and are now afebrile. (Please note: these numbers will change and are provided only for context)
- laboratory testing for a wide range of illnesses is being carried out with no positive test results as yet. SARS, avian flu and influenza have been ruled out
- control measures are as follows:
  - hospitalized patients are in isolation with droplet precautions
  - as hospitalized patients become ready for discharge they will be discharged with no additional measures required
  - patients with symptoms not requiring hospitalization are being sent home with instructions to follow until symptoms pass:
    - hand hygiene
    - cough etiquette
    - spatial separation
    - if they don't feel well, stay home from work/school
- staff who work at Seven Oaks Home for the Aged and other hospitals/nursing homes and are asymptomatic for four (4) days since last contact with Seven Oaks Home for the Aged may work elsewhere
- patients transferred from Seven Oaks for other reasons will be isolated as a precaution
- transfers of un-exposed residents back to Seven Oaks have been put on hold until further notice
- All staff at the home, the hospitals involved and in Emergency Medical Services are using gowns, masks, eye protection, and gloves when in contact with patients affected by the Seven Oaks outbreak. A decision will be made on October 4 regarding when these measures can be lifted, in whole or in part
- Hospitals in the Greater Toronto Area have been and are expected to continue to be responsive to requests for access to available isolation beds

Please contact your local public health unit should you have any questions.

*(original signed by)*

Dr Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister

*(original signed by)*

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