

Important Health Notice

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Information for Healthcare Professionals

FRI Outbreak in Toronto Nursing Home

Dear Colleagues:

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

- the case definition remains: sudden onset of fever with malaise and/or anorexia, with or without runny nose and nasal congestion or cough
- currently 70 of 249 residents and 11 of 290 staff are line listed as ill, and 39 have been admitted to hospital for treatment. There have been sixteen 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
- updated 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

Highlights:

- **Updated control measures for individuals with a febrile respiratory illness and a link to Seven Oaks Nursing Home identified**
- **Updated personal protective equipment measures for staff**
 - staff, volunteers and students from Seven Oaks Home for the Aged are not to work at any other facility for the duration of the outbreak (please note this is a change from the October 2 Important Health Notice and is consistent with the *Guide to the Control of Respiratory Disease Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes*)
 - patients transferred from Seven Oaks for other reasons will be isolated with droplet precautions
 - transfers of un-exposed residents back to Seven Oaks have been put on hold until further notice.
- At the request of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Medical Officer of Health for the City of Toronto, the Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee (PIDAC) reviewed protection measures and confirmed that all staff at the home, the hospitals involved and Emergency Medical Services use gowns, *surgical* masks eye protection and gloves when in contact with patients affected by the Seven Oak outbreak.. These precautions are set out in PIDAC's publication, *Preventing Febrile Respiratory Illnesses: Protecting Patients and Staff*.
- Hospitals in the Greater Toronto Area have been and are expected to continue to be responsive to requests for access to available isolation beds isolation

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

(original signed by)

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(original signed by)

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Ontario