

Influenza Outbreak Preparation and Management

Before an Outbreak Occurs	Is this an Outbreak?!?	During an Outbreak
<p>Promote and administer influenza vaccination. Vaccine should be provided routinely to all residents and health care personnel in the long-term care facility on an annual basis.</p> <p>Implement an influenza prevention and control policy. It should be in place regardless of whether it is influenza season or not and include plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor residents for flu-like symptoms, • To perform influenza testing on any resident that develops flu-like symptoms, and • For pre-approved treatment and prophylaxis orders for patients, and • Monitor and manage ill health care personnel. Personnel should be excluded from the facility until illness has resolved. <p>Adhere to standard precautions.</p> <p>Perform routine cleaning of environmental surfaces such as hand rails, doors, and other surfaces which multiple people may touch.</p>	<p>One laboratory confirmed influenza positive case or ≥ 2 suspect cases with influenza-like illness (ILI) among residents within 72 hours of each other.</p> <p>Submit a LTCF Influenza Outbreak Report Form to the Alaska Section of Epidemiology.</p> <p>ILI = fever + (cough or sore throat)</p>	<p>Test ill residents for influenza.</p> <p>Implement standard and droplet precautions for all residents with suspected or confirmed influenza.</p> <p>Treatment and prophylaxis. Administer influenza antiviral treatment and chemoprophylaxis to all residents and health care personnel according to current recommendations. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation.</p> <p>Implement control measures. Cough and hand hygiene: Post Flu posters around the facility. Ensure access to sinks, soap and warm water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.</p> <p>Residents: Have ill residents stay in their rooms and have meals served in-room. Limit large group activities in the facility. Avoid new admissions or transfers.</p> <p>Staff: Exclude ill personnel with influenza-like symptoms until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever.</p> <p>Visitors: Limit visitation and exclude ill persons from visiting the facility via posted notices. Consider restricting visitation by children during community outbreaks of influenza.</p> <p>Vaccinate: Administer influenza vaccine to unvaccinated residents and staff per current vaccination recommendations.</p>

If you have any questions regarding the control of influenza in your facility please call the Section of Epidemiology at (907) 269-8000. Additional information is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm>