

## Influenza-like Illness in Long Term Care Facilities Outbreak Response FAQs

These frequently asked questions (FAQs) are intended to assist long term care facilities (LTCF) in identifying when a cluster or outbreak of influenza is occurring in your facility, knowing when and how to report to Public Health, and providing guidance on what information to collect to monitor influenza activity. We recommend you share this information sheet with your facility's staff early in the influenza season.

**Q:** What is a **cluster** of influenza-like illness (ILI)?

**A:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) define a cluster of ILI as three or more cases of acute febrile respiratory illness occurring within 48 to 72 hours, in residents who are in close proximity to each other.

**Q:** What is an **outbreak** of influenza-like illness (ILI)?

**A:** An outbreak is defined as a sudden increase in acute febrile respiratory illness cases over the normal background rate or when any resident tests positive for influenza. **One case of confirmed influenza by any testing method in a LTCF resident is an outbreak.**

**Q:** If I am concerned a cluster or outbreak of ILI may be occurring in my facility, when should I call Public Health?

**A:** Please notify Public Health as soon as you notice any increase in influenza-like illness in your facility. Public Health can provide kits and laboratory testing to help confirm the diagnosis early in the outbreak.

**Q:** How do I contact Public Health?

**A:** Please notify Public Health by calling **206-296-4774** and asking to speak with the influenza coordinator.

**Q:** What can Public Health do to help control the outbreak?

**A:** Public Health can assist with laboratory testing to determine whether the outbreak is caused by influenza. Public Health will provide you with CDC's guidelines for controlling transmission of influenza in long-term care facilities. We will discuss these guidelines with you, answer questions you may have, and help you tailor the guidelines to your facility.

**Q:** What information will Public Health need to know in the event of an outbreak?

**A:** Public Health will ask you to collect the following information. Immunization rates should be monitored throughout the influenza season to ensure that staff and residents are protected to the greatest extent possible.

- Name of contact person for the facility
- Number of residents in the facility and number who are ill
- Number of staff in the facility and number who are ill
- Predominant symptoms with onset dates
- Unit(s) or section(s) of facility involved
- Results of laboratory testing
- Whether any residents have been hospitalized or died
- Date that treatment/prophylaxis was initiated
- Vaccination status of ill staff and residents
- Immunization coverage rates for all residents (influenza and pneumococcal) including vaccination date, vaccine manufacturer, lot number, and expiration date for vaccine
- Immunization coverage rates for all staff (what percentage of your staff received an influenza vaccine this season)