



INFLUENZA INSTITUTIONAL OUTBREAKS

Definition: An institutional cluster/outbreak is defined as three (3) or more cases of laboratory confirmed influenza-like illnesses in a long-term care facility (LTCF), school or other congregate environment.

When influenza outbreaks occur in health-care settings, additional measures should be taken to limit transmission. These include:

- Identify influenza virus as the causative agent early in the outbreak by performing rapid [influenza virus testing](#) of patients with recent onset of symptoms suggestive of influenza. In addition, obtain viral cultures from a subset of patients to determine the infecting virus type and subtype.
- Implement [droplet precautions](#) for all patients with suspected or confirmed influenza.
- Separate suspected or confirmed influenza patients from asymptomatic patients.
- Restrict staff movement from areas with outbreaks to other units and buildings.
- If available, administer the current season's influenza vaccine to unvaccinated patients, residents, and health-care personnel. Follow [current vaccination recommendations](#) for nasal and intramuscular influenza vaccines.
- Administer [influenza antiviral prophylaxis and treatment to patients](#), residents, and health-care personnel according to current recommendations.
- Consider antiviral prophylaxis for all health-care personnel, regardless of their vaccination status, if the outbreak is caused by a variant of influenza virus that is not well matched by the vaccine.
- Curtail or eliminate elective medical and surgical admissions and restrict cardiovascular and pulmonary surgery to emergency cases only, when influenza outbreaks, especially those characterized by high attack rates and severe illness, occur in the community or acute care facility.

**REPORT CLUSTERS AND OUTBREAKS IMMEDIATELY TO
RIDOH-OFFICE OF DISEASE CONTROL AT 401-222-2577(Day) or
401-272-5952 (after hours).**

(Directions for any specimen collection will be given at this time.)