

# Memorandum

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**Date:** October 31, 2023

**To:** Central Zone Acute Care Site Managers

**CC:** Area Directors; Communicable Disease Control Outbreak; Environmental Public Health, Infection Control Professionals; Workplace Health and Safety

**From:** Dr. Digby Horne, Medical Officers of Health, Central Zone

**RE:** Acute Care Site Outbreak Preparation for 2023-2024 Season

Outbreaks of respiratory infections (including influenza and COVID-19) and gastrointestinal infections are possible in acute care. Preparing for and responding to outbreaks is a shared responsibility.

Alberta Health Services Public Health kindly requests your assistance in preparing for the 2023-2024 outbreak season **to protect both staff and residents and facilitate an effective response if an outbreak occurs at your site.**

Outbreak management recommendations and resources changed frequently in the past outbreak season and will likely continue to change frequently during the upcoming season. For the most up to date information, please review the following resources frequently:

- [Central Zone MOH website](#)
- [AHS Infection Prevention & Control \(IPC\) Outbreak Management](#)
- [Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Acute Care Sites](#)
- [Information for AHS Staff and Health Professionals COVID-19](#)
- [Important Notice to Staff About Influenza Vaccine & COVID-19 Immunizations \(hand-out\)](#)

**Questions regarding Central Zone acute care outbreak** response can be directed as outlined below:

- **Outbreaks:** Sites with Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) support should contact [your area Infection Control Practitioner](#).
- **Gastrointestinal:** Environmental Public Health
  - phone: 1-866-654-7890
  - email: [ahs.cz.eph.diseasecontrolteam@ahs.ca](mailto:ahs.cz.eph.diseasecontrolteam@ahs.ca)
- **Respiratory:** Communicable Disease Control Outbreak Intake
  - phone: 1-888-522-1919 (state Central Zone)
  - email: [cd\\_outbreak@ahs.ca](mailto:cd_outbreak@ahs.ca).

Thank you very much for your partnership in outbreak management!