



Nebraska Infection  
Control Network

# Outbreak Identification and Management in Long Term Care

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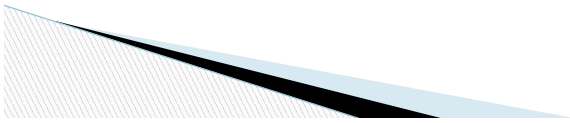
## Overview

- ▶ Definition
- ▶ Identification
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Environment
- ▶ Staff
- ▶ Summary

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# What is an outbreak?

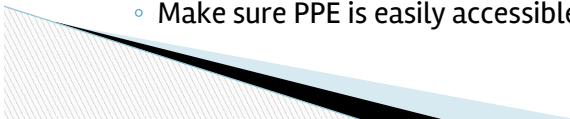
"An outbreak is a sudden rise in the number of cases of a disease. An outbreak may occur in a community or geographical area, or may affect several countries. It may last for a few days or weeks, or even for several years." [https://apic.org/monthly\\_alerts/outbreaks-epidemics-and-pandemics-what-you-need-to-know/](https://apic.org/monthly_alerts/outbreaks-epidemics-and-pandemics-what-you-need-to-know/)



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## Identification

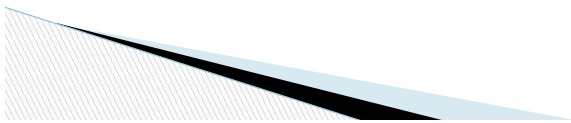
- ▶ Know your baseline
- ▶ Look for an unusual increase in symptoms
- ▶ Act early to prevent additional transmission
  - Do not wait for lab confirmation to act
- ▶ Hand Hygiene
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/providers/guideline.html>
- ▶ Appropriate PPE use
  - Make sure PPE is easily accessible



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## Communication

- ▶ Notify management and staff immediately of a potential outbreak
- ▶ Develop a pre-arranged list of staff to notify
- ▶ Make sure staff know who to contact (multiple people)
- ▶ Post signs in public areas
- ▶ Health Department is a great resource
- ▶ Standing orders for tests &/or medication



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## Isolation

- ▶ Number of sick residents that will trigger a quarantine of a neighborhood.
- ▶ Suspending group activities for the whole facility as opposed to just the quarantined neighborhoods.
- ▶ Limit visitors to the neighborhood as much as possible
  - Educate those that choose to visit
  - Promote strict adherence to infection control measures
- ▶ Resident needs still need to be met. Services and activities are brought to the neighborhood.
- ▶ Going back to “normal”

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/index.html>

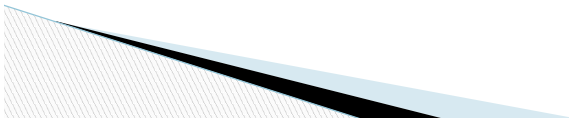


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## Environmental Services

- ▶ Communicate the importance of this department
- ▶ Make sure they are one of the first departments notified
- ▶ Cleaning the environment is everyone's responsibility, not just EVS staff
- ▶ Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces and patient care areas using an EPA approved product for Healthcare.

- <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants>

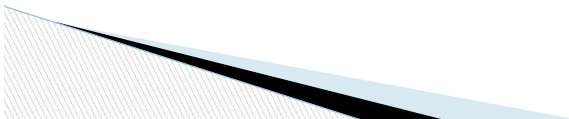


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## Staff

- ▶ Remind staff to stay home when sick
- ▶ Get vaccinated
- ▶ Consistent staffing on the quarantined neighborhood
  - Try to keep staff that has already been exposed to the outbreak on those neighborhoods
  - Do not float to unaffected neighborhoods if possible
- ▶ No traveling through quarantined areas
- ▶ Exclude non-essential staff from affected area

<https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/82043>



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## Summary

- ▶ Recognize early
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Strict adherence to Infection Control measures
- ▶ Environmental Cleaning
- ▶ Restrict ill staff



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## References

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. Outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics—what you need to know [https://apic.org/monthly\\_alerts/outbreaks-epidemics-and-pandemics-what-you-need-to-know/](https://apic.org/monthly_alerts/outbreaks-epidemics-and-pandemics-what-you-need-to-know/)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Hand Hygiene Guidance. Page last reviewed: January 30, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/providers/guideline.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Isolation Precautions. Page last reviewed: July 22, 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/index.html#>

United States Environmental Protection Agency. Selected EPA-Registered Disinfectants. LAST UPDATED ON JUNE 6, 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants>

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