## Influenza Outbreak Preparation and Management

**Before an Outbreak Occurs**

- 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.

**Implement an influenza prevention and control policy.** It should be in place regardless of whether it is influenza season or not and include plans:
  - 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.

**Adhere to standard precautions.**

- Perform routine cleaning of environmental surfaces such as hand rails, doors, and other surfaces which multiple people may touch.

**Is this an Outbreak?!?**

- One laboratory confirmed influenza positive case or
- > 2 suspect cases with influenza-like illness (ILI) among residents within 72 hours of each other.

Submit a [LTCF Influenza Outbreak Report Form](http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/default.aspx) to the Alaska Section of Epidemiology.

ILI = fever + (cough or sore throat)

**During an Outbreak**

- Test ill residents for influenza.

- Implement standard and droplet precautions for all residents with suspected or confirmed influenza.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Staff:**
  - Exclude ill personnel with influenza-like symptoms until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever.

- **Visitors:**
  - Limit visitation and exclude ill persons from visiting the facility via posted notices.
  - Consider restricting visitation by children during community outbreaks of influenza.

- **Vaccinate:**
  - Administer influenza vaccine to unvaccinated residents and staff per current vaccination recommendations.

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](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm)