

Covid-19 is a common cause of outbreaks between October and April each year. This document will provide guidance on how to respond to this type of illness including infection control measures that are recommended by [The Ministry of Health Guidance Document](#) from February 2025

Case Definition (Criteria)	Notify Public Health when: A person supported with new and unexplained respiratory symptoms i.e., cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties with positive results from a PCR or rapid antigen test.		
Declaring an Outbreak	Two or more cases that are linked within a 7-day period that are reasonably assumed to have acquired their infection in the setting. (Declared by Public Health).		
Declaring Outbreak Over	When no new cases have occurred for 8 days. (Declared by Public Health).		
Case and Contact Management	<p>People Supported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Self-isolate with a private washroom or if not possible physically distance at least 2 meters and wear a well fitted medical mask ✓ Remain isolated for at least 5 days after the onset of symptoms and 24hrs symptoms improved ✓ Use a well fitted medical mask (if able) for the 10 days following first symptoms 	<p>Employees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Self-monitor for symptoms of illness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Do not attend work if symptomatic ✓ Return to work after 24hrs symptom-free and no fever (48hrs if gastrointestinal symptoms) ✓ Wear mask for the 10 days following symptom onset ✓ Avoid caring for the highest risk people supported when possible 	
IPAC Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Isolate symptomatic people supported ✓ Use Droplet and Contact Precautions (gown, gloves, eye protection) when assisting the person supported ✓ Inform Public Health of any new or suspected cases ✓ Post signage to alert others of the Additional Precautions Required ✓ Make waste receptacle with a lid available for used PPE ✓ Assess symptoms at least once a day for all people living in the home ✓ Monitor symptomatic individuals at least twice a day for new or worsening symptoms. ✓ Prophylaxis connect with healthcare team to see if antiviral treatment is appropriate 		
Restrictions	<p>Positive Case</p> <p>For the Home: See <i>Case and Contact Management</i>, refrain from group activities</p> <p>Visitors: Avoid non-essential visits when visitor is symptomatic of an illness, masking recommended</p> <p>Employees: See <i>Case and Contact Management</i></p>	<p>Outbreak</p> <p>For the Home: Universal Masking</p> <p>Visitors: Follow masking and PPE requirements as per Public Health guidelines</p> <p>Employees: See <i>Case and Contact Management</i></p>	
Enhanced Environmental Cleaning	<p>Each Use</p> <p>Clean and disinfect outbreak equipment (if unable to dedicate sole use to outbreak room)</p>	<p>Twice Daily</p> <p>Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces</p>	<p>Daily</p> <p>Clean and disinfect low touch surfaces</p>

