

Nova Scotia Health System Pandemic Influenza Plan

Glossary

Adverse reaction: an undesirable or unwanted consequence of a preventive, diagnostic or therapeutic procedure.

Efficacy: The extent to which an intervention produces a beneficial effect under ideal circumstances, usually a randomized controlled trial.

Effectiveness: The extent to which an intervention under routine circumstances does what it is intended to do.

Health care worker with close patient contact: persons who work in settings where essential health care is provided and who during the pandemic would be working within one metre of any patients/residents with or without personal protective equipment. (e.g., physicians, nurses, housekeeping staff).

Health care worker without close patient contact: persons who work in settings where essential health care is provided and who during the pandemic would not be expected to work within one metre of any patients/residents. (e.g., laboratory workers who do not collect patient specimens, pharmacists who do not go onto patient wards, hospital kitchen staff).

Incubation period: time interval between invasion by an infectious agent and appearance of the first sign or symptom of the disease in question.

Isolation: separation, for the period of communicability, of infected persons or animals from others under such conditions as to prevent or limit the transmission of the infectious agent from those infected to those who are susceptible or who may spread the agent to others.

Key health decision makers: persons whose decision-making authority is necessary for implementing and maintaining the health sector response to pandemic influenza.

Key societal decision makers: persons whose decision-making authority will be necessary at the time of the pandemic to minimize societal disruption.

Pandemic societal responders: persons who are trained or primarily involved in the provision of an essential service that if not sustained at a minimal level would threaten public health, safety or security.

Pneumococcal vaccine: a vaccine that provides protection against the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

Public health emergency: an imminent and serious threat to public health that is posed by a dangerous disease or health hazard.

Public health measures: non-medical interventions that may be used to slow or stop the spread of a disease.

Public health responders: persons who are essential to the implementation and maintenance of the public health response to pandemic influenza and who would not be expected to come within 1 metre of a known influenza case in their work setting. (e.g., nurses doing case management by phone).

Quarantine: restriction of the activities of well persons or animals who have been exposed to a case of communicable disease during its period of communicability (i.e., contacts) to prevent disease transmission during the incubation period if infection should occur.

Surveillance: the ongoing, systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of health data essential to the planning, implementation and evaluation of public health practice, closely integrated with the timely dissemination of these data to those who need to know.

Active surveillance: a type of surveillance whereby case reports are initiated by those maintaining the surveillance system. For example, when there is an indication of something unusual occurring, such as an acute rise in the notifications of salmonella serotype from the public health laboratory, an active search for additional cases is undertaken using a standard case definition.

Passive surveillance: a type of surveillance whereby criteria are established for the reporting of diseases, risk factors or other health related events. Reports are initiated as they come to the attention of the health care practitioner. An example of a passive reporting system is the reporting of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis.

Vaccine: a preparation of a weakened or killed pathogen such as a bacterium or virus or of a portion of the pathogen structure that upon administration stimulates antibody production but is incapable of causing severe infection.