

## Outbreak Preparedness Table Top Exercise: Enteric Outbreak Scenario Participant Worksheet

**Introduction:** A tabletop exercise (TTX) is a discussion based event that uses a progressive simulated scenario, together with a series of scripted injects to make participants consider the impact of a potential health emergency on existing plans, procedures and capacities. “A TTX simulates an emergency situation in an informal, stress-free environment” (WHO Exercise Manual, 2017). This is not an individual test, the goal is to identify issues now – before something happens.

### Tabletop Objectives:

- Identify existing response protocols/plans at participants’ local facilities.
- Promote interprofessional collaboration, coordination and communication.
- Emphasize the importance of communication among staff at a long-term care facility or retirement home, with Toronto Public Health and hospital IPAC hub, and to patients/families.
- Orient participants to the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in an enteric outbreak at the facility.

**Instructions:** Your facilitator will read through the following enteric outbreak scenario and questions below from the facilitator's guide that accompanies this worksheet to engage in discussions and next step planning as the scenario evolves. Questions are presented at various stages of the scenario and the decisions made will help guide the outcomes of the scenario. This exercise is intended to be an informal, inclusive and non-judgemental environment. Use this worksheet to record discussions and answers to the questions.

### Activity:

#### Enteric Outbreak Scenario

##### Background:

Apple Tree is a retirement home with 35 residents and 45 staff. It is comprised of 3 units: Willow, Birch and Maple. All resident rooms are single occupancy and there is one communal dining space for all residents as well as one shared activity space. There is no memory care unit at the facility.

##### April 4, 2022

Resident Red Spartan, on the Willow Unit, reported symptoms of nausea and 3 episodes of diarrhea to the RN at the facility. Red was recently at an overnight stay with their family and had returned on April 3, 2022. Red has no room mates, is up to date in their COVID-19 vaccinations and has had no known exposures to a COVID-19 case. Assessment was completed and no other explanation for gastrointestinal symptoms (eg. no change in medication or diet, not related to any underlying medical condition).

**1. What additional information would be important?****2. What are the next steps that should be taken by the ICP and/or other staff at the facility?****April 4, 2022 (continued)**

There were no reports of symptomatic residents or staff on Willow Unit or throughout the entire facility and no staff sick calls on April 4. Red Spartan remains in DCP and had several more episodes of diarrhea and vomiting overnight into April 5.

**April 5, 2022**

Red Spartan's COVID-19 results came back negative this morning and stool sample results are still pending. Two additional residents on Willow Unit (Golden Delicious and Crisp Macintosh) report several episodes of gastroenteritis symptoms of vomiting and diarrhea. One staff member, who had cared for all three symptomatic residents on Willow unit, called in sick with similar symptoms. The staff and residents that reported ill are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccinations. The staff on the unit flagged the symptomatic residents to the infection control specialist (ICP), who had also been notified by occupational health of the staff absence.

**3. Do you suspect that there may be an outbreak?****4. What are the next steps that should be taken by the ICP and/or other staff at the facility?**

April 5, 2022 - am

You contact your Toronto Public Health Liaison, who confirms that the confirmed outbreak definition is met. They ask you to establish an **Outbreak Management Team** and schedule a meeting. Toronto Public Health will attend the meeting along with a representative from your affiliated hospital Infection Prevention and Control hub.

#### **5. Who else should be members of the Outbreak Management team?**

#### **April 5, 2022 - pm**

The **Outbreak Management Team** (OMT) meets that afternoon and you discuss the next steps.

#### **6. What are some of the priorities that you discuss and identify at the OMT meeting?**

#### **April 6, 2022:**

On April 6, Red Spartan resulted positive for Norovirus and residents Crisp Macintosh and Golden Delicious resulted negative for COVID-19. Red Spartan's symptoms subsided late evening April 5 and residents Crisp Macintosh and Golden Delicious remain symptomatic. There have been no further reports of symptomatic residents or staff on Willow Unit or throughout the entire facility and no staff sick calls.

#### **7. What are the next steps that should be taken by the ICP and/or other staff at the facility?**

#### **April 7-11, 2022**

Residents Crisp Macintosh and Golden Delicious resulted positive for Norovirus on April 7 and there were no further reports of any symptomatic residents or staff on Willow Unit or throughout the entire facility over the next few days. TPH declared the Confirmed OB over on April 11, 2022.

