



Outbreak Preparedness Toolkit

Cohorting Activity Participant's Guide

Time Required: 20 min

Target Audience: Individuals responsible for creating the staff scheduling and staff /resident assignments for a facility unit/area/floor affected by an outbreak.

Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to help us become familiar with the general concept of cohorting. Participants will go through each of the scenarios provided and answer the questions by applying the principles of cohorting. The goal of the activity is to think about the application of cohorting in each scenario and how these principles are transferable and implemented during an outbreak. Let's get prepared!

Objectives

- Identify cohorting best practices, protocols, and plans for cohorting that would be appropriate for the participant's facilities.
- Promote inter-professional collaboration, coordination and communication.

Instructions

Decide on who will be the facilitator. The facilitator will read through the questions to prompt discussion among the participants. The participant worksheet that accompanies this facilitator guide can be used to record discussions and answers to the questions.

The facilitator may print off the participant worksheet for each participant to record their answers.

Activity

Staff Cohorting Scenarios

- 1. Your facility has an outbreak on (insert unit/area). How would you cohort the staff? Do the staff assignments from the outbreak area need to be cohorted as well?**
- 2. Your facility is facing staffing challenges, and unable to cohort some staff by floors. Can a cohort include staff from more than one unit?**
- 3. What would be your suggestion to your staff from an outbreak unit sharing the common areas with staff from a non-outbreak area, such as the break room or locker room?**
- 4. TPH has declared an outbreak on (insert unit/area) at your facility. However, some staff are unable to be cohorted at all. For example, your facility has**

only one physiotherapist per shift for the entire 4 floor facility. What guidelines or instruction should be provided to these staff?

Resident Cohorting Scenarios

- 1. There is a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak occurring on (insert unit/area) at your facility which have been deemed the outbreak area(s). If the dining area is communal for residents of different units, e.g. includes residents from the outbreak area and residents from non-outbreak areas, what are your thoughts on proceeding with communal dining? What would be considered IPAC best practices related to cohorting?**

- 2. Your facility is currently experiencing a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak and has cohorted the residents by floor. COVID-19 cases have only been identified on 2 floors of your home. You have identified the common areas located on the ground floor: the dining room and an activity room. Your facility needs to consider how to cohort resident groups with shared common areas. What would be considered IPAC best practices for using these common areas?**

3. A new resident is being admitted to your facility. This resident has been identified as being a high risk contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case in the community. The resident is currently asymptomatic and has a negative COVID-19 test result. The facility is currently experiencing a controlled outbreak on (insert unit/area), and the resident is compliant. The facility is short on single rooms and would like to place the resident with another resident who is also well but has not been exposed to COVID-19. Does this align with cohorting best practice?

Debrief Discussion Questions

1. Think of a scenario where you were able to cohort staff/residents well.
2. Think of a scenario where you found it challenging to cohort staff/residents.
3. What are some areas for improvement and/or ideas to incorporate into the workplace?

Feedback

Thank you for completing the activity. We want to hear your feedback. Please complete this short survey (1-2 min) so we can continue to improve the tools.

https://s.tphsurvey.chkmkt.com/TPH_OBPrep_Toolkit



Additional Resources/References

- [COVID-19 guidance document for long-term care homes in Ontario](#)
- [PHO Cohorting in Congregate Living Settings](#)

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