

**COMMUNITY LIVING TORONTO
POLICY AND PROCEDURES
GENERAL MANUAL**

06-04-02
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Section	Subject	<u>Date Issued</u> Sept. 09/99
PROGRAM RELATED	COMMUNICABLE DISEASES	
		<u>Date Revised</u> April 3, 2020

POLICY

CLTO has a duty to prevent, limit and manage the transmission of infectious diseases across the Association. As an employer in the Developmental Services Sector, we are fully committed to the safety and well-being of individuals receiving supports and services and our staff. Community Living Toronto (CLTO) will:

- Ensure all relevant infection, prevention and control precautions are reviewed and revised on an annual basis, reflect current evidence and best practice, and
- Provide education regarding these precautions for staff and individuals in service.

DEFINITION

Communicable or infectious diseases are caused by microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi that can be spread, directly or indirectly, from one person to another. Some are transmitted through bites from insects while others are caused by ingesting contaminated food or water.

A variety of disease-producing bacteria and viruses are carried in the mouth, nose, throat and respiratory tract. Conditions such as leprosy, tuberculosis (TB) and different strains of influenza (flu) can be spread by coughing, sneezing, and saliva or mucus on unwashed hands (WHO, 2020).

Communicable diseases may include: chicken pox, herpes simplex, herpes zoster (shingles), measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis, cytomegalo virus, coronavirus, novel including SARS, MERS and COVID-19 coronavirus, meningitis, tuberculosis, streptococcal pharyngitis, AIDS, hepatitis, infectious mononucleosis, malaria, worm parasites and viral respiratory infection, etc. (O. Reg 550/85, S86)

PROCEDURES

Prior to contact with a new service user, direct support staff are to review the individual's Medical/Health Information form (completed during the intake process). Prior to contact with someone who is already in service, direct support staff are to review the person's Annual Medical/Health Information form, Caution Sheets, and General Information Sheet.

Staff who provide community-based supports must be alert to signs that people coming into service or who are currently receiving supports/services may have a communicable disease. For example, they should be observant of any medical problems such as

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bleeding and skin lesions (with oozing). Individuals' appearance, reactions and other possible signs of illness (e.g., coughing, fever, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, etc.) must be considered in deciding whether medical attention is needed.

Staff must practice routine practices and additional precautions as specified for the communicable disease and follow outbreak management protocols as directed by Public Health.

REPORTING

Communicable disease, or suspected communicable disease, must be reported to the local Medical Officer of Health by the primary healthcare provider, laboratory, and/or by other individuals as directed by Public Health and Chief Medical Officer of Health directives related to infectious diseases of public significance.

LIST OF REPORTABLE DISEASES

A list of reportable diseases is designated by the Health Protection and Promotions Act (HPPA): Ontario Regulation 556/91.

Related Documentation

Health Protection and Promotions Act (HPPA): Ontario Regulation 556/91

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/964d-tph-CDSU-Reportable-Disease-List-Mar-2020.pdf>

Control of Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes, 2018

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/reference/resp_infectn_ctrl_guide_ltc_2018_en.pdf

Institutional/Facility Outbreak Management Protocol, 2018

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/protocols_guidelines/Inst_Fac_Outbreak_Protocol_2018_en.pdf

Routine Practices and Additional Precautions

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/health-topics/infection-prevention-control/routine-practices-additional-precautions>

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