

## Richmond Health Services: HSDA Pandemic Response Plan

### SURVEILLANCE

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### SURVEILLANCE

Influenza surveillance activities in Canada are coordinated by the Public Health Agency of Canada, and reported regularly through FluWatch, a compilation of influenza surveillance information from within Canada and from international sources.

FluWatch is found at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index.html>

In the interpandemic period, Vancouver Coastal Health undertakes surveillance for local influenza activity in order to:

- Monitor for the introduction and spread of influenza and other respiratory viruses within the region;
- Allow for rapid identification and control of facility outbreaks, to minimize morbidity and mortality of vulnerable populations;
- Provide information on influenza epidemiology to hospitals, long term care facilities and physicians;
- Provide regional information to provincial and federal authorities that will contribute to national surveillance information.

When a pandemic is declared, surveillance activities will be directed by the Public Health Agency of Canada and directed provincially by the BCCDC. Vancouver Coastal Health will participate in these activities, and will enhance regional surveillance activities to monitor for the local introduction and spread of the pandemic viral strain.

For information on **Laboratory Surveillance**, refer to VCH Pandemic response Plan Chapter 3, section 2.

For information on **Enhanced Sentinel Physician Surveillance**, refer to VCH Pandemic Response Plan Chapter 3, section 3.

For information on **Emergency Room Surveillance**, refer to VCH Pandemic Response Plan, Chapter 3, section 4.

For information on **Enhanced Border Surveillance**, refer to VCH Pandemic Response Plan, Chapter 3, section 5.

### References & Resources

[http://www.vch.ca/pandemic/docs/ch03\\_surveillance.pdf](http://www.vch.ca/pandemic/docs/ch03_surveillance.pdf)

## Richmond Health Services: HSDA Pandemic Response Plan

### SURVEILLANCE

#### Summary Of Regional Surveillance Activities By Pandemic Phase

PANDEMIC PHASE	SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Interpandemic Period (Phases 1 & 2) Novel virus in animals but no human cases	▪ ILI outbreaks in facilities	Reports of 2 or more cases of ILI within a one week period in long-term care or acute care facilities
	▪ Reports of viral isolates from laboratories (VIRAP or BCCDC)	Testing of nasopharyngeal wash from ILI outbreaks and individual patients through VIRAP, BCCDC
	▪ Reports of school absenteeism	Passive reporting from schools with student absenteeism of 10% or more
	▪ Sentinel physician surveillance	Weekly reports of proportion of patient visits for ILI from community physicians
Pandemic Alert (Phases 3, 4, 5) New human viral subtype with localized clusters of human-to-human spread; virus not yet fully transmissible	▪ Border surveillance (Returning travellers)	Passive surveillance of travellers returning from areas of pandemic alert; provide information on signs and symptoms and seeking medical assessment to returning travellers from affected areas
	▪ Emergency Room Surveillance	Provide case definitions for reporting of ILI among returning travellers from ERs
	▪ Community physician surveillance	Provide case definitions for reporting from all community physicians and clinics
	▪ Reports of unusual clusters of respiratory illness or deaths	Reporting from ERs, hospital infection control (inpatients), Employee Health (healthcare worker clusters), and community physicians
	▪ Healthcare Worker Surveillance	Active surveillance of employee absenteeism
Pandemic declared (Phase 6) Sustained transmission in general populations	▪ Enhanced sentinel physician surveillance	Enhancing the existing sentinel physician surveillance of ILI using Vancouver Coastal physicians
	▪ Real time Emergency Room surveillance	Using electronic data available from VCH Emergency Rooms for pneumonia and ILI
	▪ Enhanced border surveillance	Assist Health Canada in surveillance at ports of entry
	▪ Active surveillance for school absenteeism	Active surveillance of school absenteeism by PHNs/CHNs
	▪ Reports of viral isolates from laboratories (VIRAP and BCCDC)	Testing of nasopharyngeal wash from ILI outbreaks and individual patients through VIRAP, BCCDC
	▪ Healthcare Worker Surveillance	Active surveillance of employee absenteeism
Phase 6 - 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> peaks	▪ Discontinue border surveillance	
	▪ Discontinue testing of viral isolates	Test only for unusual clusters or initial cases in a given community
Post pandemic period	▪ Return to Phase 1 activities ▪ Assess pandemic surveillance activities	

## SURVEILLANCE

### Active Surveillance for School Absenteeism

When a pandemic has been declared (Phase 6) by WHO, active surveillance for school absenteeism may be initiated to detect introduction or spread of the pandemic strain.

#### Note

Influenza viruses are known to circulate among school-age children and absenteeism rates above 10% during influenza seasons are known to correlate with spread in the general population.

In the interpandemic period, school surveillance for increased absenteeism is done passively. This relies on schools notifying public health of increased absenteeism, if detected. During active surveillance, the public health nurses will contact the school on a regular basis to ask about levels of absenteeism. Within each Community Health Area, schools are assigned to public health nurses.

#### Process

The Public Health Nurse should:

- Identify a primary contact at the school for absenteeism rates, usually the school secretary.
- Contact each school once per week to obtain the daily absenteeism rate. If absenteeism is below 10%, no further action is required. Advise school contact to call the Public Health Nurse, if rates rise significantly prior to the next scheduled call.
- Contact the schools more frequently, if there is concern that an outbreak is beginning.
- Ask for the list of absent students and their contact information, if absenteeism is above 10%.
- Contact students or their parents to ascertain the reason for their absence.
- Arrange for VIRAP testing of up to 6 students or staff with most recent onset of symptoms of influenza-like illness (ILI), if a majority of absentees meet the criteria for ILI. (Refer to Laboratory Surveillance).
- Provide VIRAP results to the students or parents, the MHO and the school.
- Provide MHO letter to parents for information, including instructions for self-care and when to seek medical attention.

The Emergency Co-ordinator should:

- Update schools contact information annually, when the plan is exercised.

#### References & Resources

[http://www.vch.ca/pandemic/docs/ch03\\_surveillance.pdf](http://www.vch.ca/pandemic/docs/ch03_surveillance.pdf)

#### Tools

A Checklist for School Absenteeism and a List of Schools and Contact Numbers follow.

**SURVEILLANCE**

**Active Surveillance for School Absenteeism**

**Checklist for School Absenteeism**

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
      yyyy mm dd

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

a) Student enrolment: _____	c) Total staff: _____
b) Number absent: _____	d) Number absent: _____
Absenteeism (b/a x 100%): _____	(d/c x 100%): _____

If absenteeism is 10% or more:

- Obtain names and contact phone numbers of those absent
- Determine the reason for absenteeism
- If a majority of those absent meet the case definition for ILI, arrange for testing
  - VIRAP testing of up to 6 cases with recent onset of symptoms
  - Results to MHO
  - Notification of those tested
  - If a cause is identified, letter home to all parents with information and instructions

Name	Address	Phone	VIRAP results

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Active Surveillance for School Absenteeism

Health Service Delivery Area	School Board	School	Contact Number
Richmond	Richmond School District	Anderson	604-668-6355
	www.sd38.bc.ca	Blair	604-668-6330
		Blundell	604-668-6562
		Bridge	604-668-6236
		Brighthouse	604-668-6522
		Byng	604-668-6649
		Cook	604-668-6454
		DeBeck	604-668-6281
		Diefenbaker	604-668-6639
		Dixon	604-668-6608
		Errington	604-668-6699
		Ferris	604-668-6538
		Garden City	604-668-7855
		General Currie	604-668-6440
		Gilmore	604-668-6268
		Grauer	604-668-6547
		Hamilton	604-668-6514
		Homma	604-668-7844
		Kidd	604-668-6602
		Kingswood	604-668-6280
		Lee	604-668-6269
		Maple Lane	604-668-6692
		McKay	604-668-6470
		McKinney	604-668-6133
		McNeely	604-668-6250
		Mitchell	604-668-6225
		Quilchena	604-668-6224
		Sea Island	604-668-6468
		Sidaway	604-668-6466
		Spul'u'kwuks	604-303-5100
		Steves	604-668-6660
		Tait	604-668-6444
		Talmey	604-668-6275
		Thompson	604-668-6420
		Tomsett	604-668-6448
		Westwind	604-668-6497
		Whiteside	604-668-6209
		Woodward	604-668-6296
		Wowk	604-668-6198
		<i>Boyd</i>	604-668-6615
		<i>Burnett</i>	604-668-6478
		<i>Cambie</i>	604-668-6430
		<i>London</i>	604-668-6668

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Active Surveillance for School Absenteeism

Health Service Delivery Area	School Board	School	Contact Number
		<i>MacNeill</i>	604-668-6212
		<i>McMath</i>	604-718-4050
		<i>McNair</i>	604-668-6575
		<i>McRoberts</i>	604-668-6600
		<i>Palmer</i>	604-6686288
		<i>Richmond</i>	604-668-6400
		<i>Steveston</i>	604-668-6500
		Ecole des Navigateurs	604-718-5629
Richmond	Federation of Independent Schools (FISA)	Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy	604-274-7861
		Choice School for Gifted Children	604-273-2418
		Cornerstone Christian Academy	604-303-9181
		Richmond Christian Elementary Campus	604-272-5720
		Richmond Christian Secondary Campus	604-274-1122
		Richmond Jewish Day School	604-275-3393
		St. Joseph the Worker School	604-277-1115
		St. Paul's School	604-277-4487