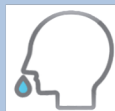




Swabs

- Any patient with viral respiratory symptoms and a negative Covid antigen test should be swabbed for both COVID-19 and influenza.
- Let Public Health know if you suspect there is an outbreak of either COVID-19 or influenza.

Department of Public Health –
HSE Dublin and Midlands



Awaiting swab results

- Liaise with each resident's GP and consider starting a treatment dose of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu™) if flu is clinically suspected.
- Isolate suspected cases in **single rooms** - use PPE appropriate for suspected COVID-19 or flu cases. Patients may have influenza and/or COVID-19. They should not be cohorted together in multi-occupancy rooms.
- Identify close contacts of suspected flu and be vigilant for new onset of symptoms (no need to identify close contacts of COVID).



Confirmation of influenza outbreak (with no concurrent COVID-19 outbreak)

- Liaise with each resident's GP and consider starting prophylactic Oseltamivir (Tamiflu™) for identified close contacts.
- Give information about influenza, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette to residents and visitors where appropriate.
- Implement local outbreak management plan - dedicated staff team to units, enhanced cleaning and disinfection, surveillance.



Staff

- The flu and COVID-19 vaccines are the best way for staff to protect themselves, their loved ones and their patients from these viruses.
- Staff with symptoms of flu should be excluded for 5 days from date of onset of symptoms from the facility and have fully recovered. Occupational health guidelines for any diagnosed pathogen should be followed.
- Ideally only vaccinated staff should care for patients with flu symptoms. Staff - talk to your own GP about whether you need Oseltamivir.



Medical reviews and transfers

- If contacting the GP, the out of hours GP service, or other healthcare services, inform them that there is an outbreak/suspected outbreak.
- If transferring a resident to hospital make sure that Ambulance Control / Emergency Department / Outpatients and the Hospital Infection Control (or Nursing Admin) are advised that there is an outbreak/ suspected outbreak in your RCF.



Visitors

- Raise awareness and ask them not to visit if they have symptoms of a respiratory virus.
- Give information about COVID-19 and flu, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Place signs at all entrances to your RCF to inform visitors that there is an outbreak of a respiratory virus.
- All visitors should wear a mask.
- Visitors in "at risk" groups for flu should be informed about the outbreak so they can make an informed choice about whether to visit.
- Exclude all children or anyone with ILI symptoms regardless of age.



Resumption of Services

- It is generally appropriate for the unit to resume normal operations after 7 days from the onset of symptoms in the most recent case in a COVID-19 outbreak and after 8 days in a flu outbreak.