

Pandemic Influenza

Appendices



Health and Community Services

Acronyms

ACPHHS	Advisory Committee on Population Health and Health Security
CCMOH	Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health
CEPR	Canadian Integrated Outbreak Surveillance Centre
CESSD	Council of Emergency Social Services Directors
CHEMD	Council of Health Emergency Management Directors
CIDPC	Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control
CIOSC	Canadian Integrated Outbreak Surveillance Centre
CMOH	Chief Medical Officer of Health
CPIP	Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan
CUPE	Canadian Union of Public Employees
DHCS	Department of Health and Community Services
EMO	Emergency Measures Organization
EOC	Emergency Operation Centre
F/P/T	Federal/Provincial/Territorial
FRI	Febrile Respiratory Infection
HCW	Health Care Worker
HRLE	Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment
ILI	Influenza Like Illness
IMS	Incident Management System
MOH	Medical Officer of Health
NAPE	Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NLMA	Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association
NLNU	Newfoundland and Labrador Nurses Union
NML	National Microbiology Laboratory
P/T	Provincial/Territorial
PHAC	Public Health Agency of Canada
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPHL or PHL	Provincial Public Health Laboratory
RHA	Regional Health Authority
RMOH	Regional Medical Officer of Health
SRI	Severe Respiratory Illness
WHO	World Health Organization

Legislation and Policy

The purpose of this is to outline the legislative and policy directives currently in effect that create a need for, or give effect to, a departmental emergency management plan and program. This information is provided for quick reference only and not for the purpose of guiding decisions or actions. Decisions and actions will be based on careful review of relevant legislation and upon the receipt of legal advice from solicitors with the Department of Justice or the Regional Health Authorities.

A. Legislative Directives

The Department of Health and Community Services Notice, 2003 identifies that the Minister of Health and Community Services is responsible for a number of matters including:

- the promotion and preservation of health
- the prevention and control of disease
- public health
- services to children, youth and families
- child care services
- the control of drugs
- facilities and programs for dependent persons and persons with disabilities.

The Health and Community Services Act in:

- section 3 requires that officials of public institutions, medical officers of health, clerks or secretaries of municipalities, school board officials, medical practitioners, nurses, social workers, dentists, and pharmacists to answer communications from the Department promptly, gather requested information and submit the same to the Department in relation to matters impacting on public health or the provision of services to families, children and youth;
- section 5 authorizes health officers, inspectors or other persons designated by the Minister or authorized by the Chief Medical Officer of Health to enter into buildings or onto land and to issue orders or give directions as necessary to protect the public health;
- section 8 authorizes the Minister to declare an area to be a restricted area; and
- section 11 authorizes the Minister to make regulations applicable to many aspects of health and community services.

The Communicable Diseases Act in:

- section 4 requires physicians to give notice, within 24 hours, to the deputy minister or health officer of the relevant jurisdiction that a person is believed to be infected with a communicable disease;
- section 5 requires that officials in charge of hospitals, residential institutions and teachers/instructors in educational facilities give notice to the deputy minister or health officer of the respective jurisdiction that a person is believed to have a communicable disease;
- section 6 authorization is provided to health officers, upon receipt of notification that a case of communicable disease exists, to inspect premises where the disease is reported to exist and obtain information as to the persons suspected of being infected or as to the source of the infection;
- section 14 enables the Minister, in writing, to authorize and direct qualified persons to investigate outbreaks of infectious disease and unusual and unexplained mortality, such persons may exercise the powers conferred upon a commissioner under the Public Inquiries Act;
- section 15 provides a medical health officer, with reasonable grounds, to issue a written order that a person having or suspected to have an infectious disease, submit to a medical examination by the medical health officer or physician acceptable to the medical health officer, where it appears that a person is infected with a communicable disease the medical health officer may, with the approval of the Minister or Deputy Minister in writing

order the treatment necessary to protect the public, should the person not comply the medical health officer may by written order request police assistance in removing the non-compliant person to a place of treatment or examination;

- section 17 authorizes a health officer, or person authorized by them, to remove persons with a communicable disease from public conveyances and detain the conveyance until it is properly disinfected;
- section 18 enables the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to take those precautions necessary to prevent the spread of an epidemic of communicable disease into the province;
- section 21 enables the Minister, in an emergency situation relating to a communicable disease, make immunization or re-immunization compulsory;
- section 23 requires that certificates of immunization be provided to the person responsible for children recently immunized;
- section 30 authorizes the Minister, subject to approval by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, to make general and particular quarantine orders and regulations; and
- section 31 authorizes the Minister to issue orders declaring an epidemic and ordering quarantine, isolation, vaccination, disinfection and the closure of schools, public and private gatherings necessary to stop the spread of infectious disease.

A schedule of communicable diseases is attached to the Act.

The Emergency Measures Act in:

- section 2(b) defines a "civil disaster"; in this context it is an actual or potential event, other than war, that may or does endanger public health and safety, including disease;
- section 2(f)(v) defines the emergency medical services and public health and welfare measures as emergency measures,

- section 7 identifies that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, by proclamation, can declare a state of civil disaster,
- section 8 identifies that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, upon proclamation of a state of civil disaster, enact a plan and/or take those measures to protect persons from suffering and maintain and coordinate medical and welfare services; he or she may also make regulations necessary for public health and welfare; it also authorizes the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs to conscript and empower persons with appropriate qualifications to perform medical, dental, nursing, pharmaceutical and optometry services;
- section 10 enables local disasters to be declared in areas of the province where an emergency threatens safety, welfare and well-being and that cannot be handled locally, in such circumstances the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs may designate an officer to take charge of emergency operations including the control and co-ordination of health and welfare services; and
- section 15 stipulates that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may order that each department identify, by title, interim successors to act in place of the Deputy Minister during periods of civil disaster and may specify their order of seniority; there are to be at least two and not more than six interim successors, these successors shall when the Deputy Minister is unavailable during civil emergencies act in the capacity of the Deputy Minister; each Minister shall also compile a list of senior departmental officers below the rank of Deputy Minister to act in the capacity of Minister should he or she be unavailable during times of civil disaster and shall specify the order of succession; and
- section 16 outlines matters applicable to auxiliary police.

B. Policy Directives

The Public Health Division is mandated as primarily responsible for epidemiology, surveillance and control of communicable diseases through immunization, disease reporting, follow-up and control of disease outbreaks. This Division is responsible for the disease surveillance, control, immunization and environmental health programs. It is headed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and will take a lead role in the coordination of departmental activities relating to the management of communicable disease outbreaks and will assist in the coordination of public health measures needed to respond to major emergencies and disasters.

The Health Emergency Management Division has a program mandate for emergency preparedness in the provincial health sector. As such, this Division will play a key role in departmental emergency management activities and assist in the coordination of the Department's response to major emergencies and disasters.

References

- 1.) Public Health Agency of Canada. (2006). Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan for Health Sector (Health Canada Publication). Ottawa, Canada: Canadian Government Printing Office.
- 2.) Same as above
- 3.) Same as above
- 4.) Same as above
- 5.) World Health Organization. (2005). WHO global influenza preparedness plan (World Health Organization Publication). Geneva, Switzerland.
- 6.) Same as no. 1
- 7.) Manitoba Health. (October, 2004) Incident Management System Guideline – Manitoba Health Disaster Management. (Government of Manitoba Publication) Manitoba, Canada.
- 8.) National Health Emergency Management Framework, F/P/T Network on Emergency Preparedness and Response, 2004
- 9.) Last, John. (2001). A Dictionary of Epidemiology. New York, New York: Oxford University Press.
- 10.) Same as no. 1
- 11.) Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. (2006). Influenza and Immunization Policy. Retrieved February 10, 2007 from http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publications/immunization/S5/influenza_immunization_policy.htm
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http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=pubmed&list_uids=16989268&cmd=Retrieve&indexed=google
- 13.) Same as above
- 14.) Same as above
- 15.) Same as above
- 16.) Same as above
- 17.) Same as above
- 18.) Same as above
- 19.) Same as above