







Framework for assisting with the Public Health response to COVID-19

- The Framework for assisting with the Public Health response to COVID-19 was developed to outline various areas for communities to consider in the planning, preparation, implementation and evaluation of their response to COVID-19
- In addition, the framework provides links and documents to support communities with the guidance and development of their strategic plan for COVID-19, along with references for education and training.

Note: links provided are evergreen and maybe updated by the source as new information or changes are made available. Please ensure you are using the most recent version of the document to confirm you are referencing the most recent recommendations.

- Contents of the Framework for assisting with the Public Health response to COVID-19 include:
 - Mitigation/Prevention & Preparedness
 - Response
 - Recover
 - Additional Considerations
 - Appendix A: Emergency Management Cycle in context to COVID-19

Framework for assisting with the Public Health response to COVID-19			
Mitigation/Prevention & Preparedness		Response	
Preparation & Education/Awareness	Screening & Testing	Public Health Response to Confirmed COVID-19 Case: Case Management	Public Health Response to Confirmed COVID-19: Case-Contact Tracing & Notification
Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and/or update Communicable Disease Emergency Plan (Onehealth.ca) Develop Community COVID-19 Strategy (Framework for Assisting with the Public Health Response to COVID-19 can help with implementation) Ensure proper infection, prevention and control (IPAC) measures are in place for various Band buildings, including review of Environmental Cleaning Manual for health facilities Ensure appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is in place and available for identified roles and facilities, -identify a re-ordering process for supplies as needed Develop/update a Community Contingency plan Implementation of passive/active screening as appropriate Education/Training/Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement community based approaches (e.g., education sessions, posters/pamphlets, social media, etc.) Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -CD Unit (Onehealth.ca) -Local Public Health Unit -Public Health Ontario -Ministry of Health -Province of Ontario COVID-19 Website -Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) -(COVID-19 and Indigenous Communities) PHO: COVID-19 IPAC Fundamentals Training PHO: Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Online Course WHO: Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for COVID-19 Online Course WHO: COVID-19 How to Put On and Remove Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (in health care setting) Online Course WHO: Standard Precautions- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Online Course PHO: Best practices for Hand Hygiene in all Health Care Setting 4th edition GOC: Community based measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Canada Appendix B: Remote and Isolated and First Nations, Inuit and Metis Communities 	Testing Resources & Clinics for Community Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify process for community members to access COVID-19 testing (e.g. local assessment centre, community testing strategy) Identify key stakeholders to help implement testing strategy (e.g. primary care providers, pharmacists, paramedic services) MOH Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms COVID-19 Patient Screening Guidance Document COVID-19 Screening Tool for Workplaces (Businesses and Organizations) Education/Training/Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide community education on testing for COVID-19 including: when to be tested, location for testing, public health recommendations throughout the testing process 	Process for Communicating Confirmed COVID-19 Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify process for following up positive COVID-19 results, including an after hours process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify the role of the local PHU, the CD unit and the CHN Identify process for notifying community leadership of positive COVID-19 results, including after hours. <p>As needed, see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CD Unit: Reportable Disease Community Reporting Plan for CHNs, including Afterhours (attached)  <p>Reportable Disease Reporting Plan for CHN</p> Public Health Measures <p>For guidance, see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FNHIB-OR COVID-19 Recommended Public Health Follow Up for CHNs MOH: Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure CD Unit and PHU are aware of confirmed case(s) Develop process for follow up and monitoring of confirmed case(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -COVID-19 Follow Up Checklist: Case -COVID-19 Follow Up Checklist: Contact Completion of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Appendix 1: COVID-19 Follow-up Form (SARI) -Appendix 2: Routine Activities Prompt Worksheet Case -Appendix 3: Daily Clinical Update Acute Care (as needed) -Appendix 4: Client Monitoring Tracking Record -Appendix 5: Contact Tracing Worksheet -Appendix 6: Close Contact Daily Clinical Update Form 	Process for Contact Tracing and Notification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a process for contact tracing of a confirmed COVID-19 case <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -COVID-19 Contact Tracing Supports  <p>Community Contact Tracing Team- Plannir</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a process for contact notification for confirmed COVID-19 case(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Community Contact Notification Team Planning Tool for COVID-19  <p>Community Contact Notification Team Plan</p> Education to support Contact Tracing and Notification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHAC: Contact Tracing Training John Hopkins University: COVID-19 Contact Tracing Online Course Social Determinants and Well-being for Contact Tracing Online Course (3 modules from Australian National University) PHO: Risk Assessment Approach for COVID-19 Contact Tracing  <p>Contact Tracing Education and Resource</p>

Framework for assisting with the Public Health Response to COVID-19 Con't			
Response	Response	Recovery	Additional Considerations
Assessment & Quarantine Centres	Outbreak Response	Second Wave Preparation	
Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a community needs assessment to determine availability and need for community based assessment and quarantine centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Consider nearby communities and resources that might assist with providing services or help with implementing a community based approach Based on needs assessment, identify plan to implement assessment and/or quarantine centre(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Include in plan: policies, processes, staffing, equipment and supplies, funding, security, environmental cleaning, infection prevention and control, etc. Identify key stakeholders to help with development, evaluation and implementation of plan 	Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of community Communicable Disease Emergency (CDE) plan Clearly define roles in outbreak response Work with Provincial and Federal partners to respond to outbreak Seek additional resources to support outbreak response as required 	Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review, test and strengthen community Communicable Disease Emergency (CDE) Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Recognize and acknowledge strengths of plan and areas that went well -Identify gaps and limitations of plan and problem solve to determine approaches to close gaps and improve limitations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and define various roles within the community, and of supporting partners, of who may be able to assist the community within COVID-19 response at the different stages <p>Considerations may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership Community Health Home and Community Care Health Authorities Nursing/Nurse Manager/Nurse Practice Consultants FNHIB: Communicable Disease Unit Environmental Health Officers Emergency Response Public Health Units Community members with health care knowledge or experience
Education/Training/Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Cross: Resources for Indigenous communities Ontario Health: Recommendations for COVID-19 Assessment Centers 	Education/Training/Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management COVID-19 Outbreak Guidance for Long Term Care Homes COVID-19 Guidance: Workplace Outbreaks COVID-19 Guidance: On-Farm Outbreak Management Emergency Management: Introduction to Emergency Management System (course) 	Education/Training/Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Cross: Resources for Indigenous communities CDE Tabletop Exercise Toolkit-One Health Guidance on Re-Opening Northern, Remote, Isolated, and Indigenous Communities 	Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous Community Support Fund

COVID-19 Community Strategy General Framework: Additional Guidance and Resource List

H&CC, Long Term Care & Retirement Homes Resources	Primary & Acute Care	Mental Health & Additional Services	Other resources
MOH Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 Guidance: Home and Community Care Providers COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes Outbreak Guidance for Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH) Guidance for mask use in long-term care homes and retirement homes Reopening Retirement Homes Retirement Home COVID-19 Visiting Policy COVID-19 Test Requisition COVID-19 Surveillance Testing – Guidance Regarding Retirement Homes Staff and Resident Testing COVID-19: Visiting Long-Term Care Homes COVID-19 Guidance: Congregate Living for Vulnerable Populations Resuming Visits in Congregate Living Settings PHAC/ISC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 Guidance for Long Term Care Facilities and Nursing Homes in Indigenous Communities 	MOH Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance: Acute Care Guidance: Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting Guidance for Immunization Services During COVID-19 	MOH Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance: Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) Sites Guidance: Independent Health Facilities Guidance: Mental Health and Addictions Service Providers in Community Settings Talking to Children About the Pandemic Resources for Ontarians Experiencing Mental Health and Addictions Issues During the Pandemic 	MOH Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance for Essential Workplaces Guidance for Food Premises Guidance for Temporary Foreign Workers COVID-19 Guidance: Workplace Outbreaks COVID-19 Guidance: On-Farm Outbreak Management PHAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing COVID-19 in the Workplace: Employers, employees and essential services workers <p style="text-align: center;">Schools</p> MOH Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care COVID-19 school and child care screening (Online tool and PDF) FNHIB- CD Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 Management in School PHO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Scan of School Reopening During COVID-19 COVID-19 Preparedness and Prevention in Elementary and Secondary (K-12) Schools Preventing COVID-19: Tips for Children Attending School PHAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 Guidance for Schools Kindergarten to Grade 12 Safe Return to Class Funding <p style="text-align: center;">Large Gatherings & Community Events</p> MOH Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance for Funeral and Bereavement Services COVID-19 Advice: Religious Services, Rites or Ceremonies ISC Guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISC- Practical Guidance for Funerals, Wakes or Memorials During the Current Covid-19 Pandemic Situation (Onehealth.ca)

Appendix A: Emergency Management Cycle

Emergency Management Cycle

In context to COVID-19, the Emergency Management Cycle can support the ongoing process by which communities can plan for and reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, react during and immediately following the current and future waves, and take steps to recover after the pandemic has occurred. As a cyclical process, it is never complete. Recovery can inform prevention and mitigation.

Mitigation & Prevention	Preparedness	Response	Recovery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions which serve to reduce or eliminate the effect, risk or impact of an emergency. Such actions should be in place at all times to decrease the level of required emergency response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions undertaken before an emergency to be ready to respond to and manage its consequences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions occurring immediately before, during or after emergencies to manage its consequences and minimize loss and suffering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions undertaken to repair or restore conditions after the emergency
Examples: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage public health actions in the community Continue to assess the situation (ongoing action) 	Examples: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare, review & update Emergency Response Plan & define essential services Ensure resources are available to promote mental health and wellness 	Examples: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide only essential services to the community Promote and enforce physical distancing and self-isolation, as required 	Examples: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Gradually re-open the community Monitor situation on an ongoing basis (e.g. number of cases)

Framework for assisting with the Public Health response to COVID-19

- MITIGATION & PREVENTION -

- Actions which serve to reduce or eliminate the effect, risk or impact of an emergency
- Such actions should be in place at all times to decrease the level of required emergency response
- **Note: These actions continue throughout the duration of the communicable disease emergency**

1. Communicate on the implementation of surveillance policies to mitigate importation/impact of COVID-19 (e.g. passive screening through signage at airport, health centre, community bulletin boards; active screening through entry check points and facilities or precautionary 14-day testing/isolation of essential workers prior to entering community)
2. Liaise with partners and other communities through existing channels (e.g. PTO/tribal councils, COO/Area Health Authorities/Local Public Health Units)
 - Consider use of joint resources and efforts (e.g. shared sites, policies, protocols, etc.). Communicate on health-related matters with community members, health facility staff, and other local/ provincial/ federal partners and stakeholders. Promote free flow of data between responsible agencies and community groups to facilitate expedited response
3. Establish a clear communications plan. Consider using ISC resources.
4. Highlight and encourage public health actions in the community to stop the spread of COVID-19. This includes promoting guidelines from the Ontario Ministry of Health such as:
 - Proper hand/cough hygiene
 - Stay home unless it is absolutely essential to go out
 - 2 metres of physical distancing
 - Wearing a non-medical facemask in public

Resource: [COVID-19: Stop the Spread](#)
5. Communicate on pertinent health and non-health related matters related to the emergency with community members, health facility staff, and other local/ provincial/ federal partners and stakeholders. Key items to include in communications to the public are around local, provincial, national, and international situation and level of risk
6. Communicate any education/training that is being made available for community leadership, health care professionals, environmental public health officers and emergency management coordinators to assist in community pandemic response (e.g. contact tracing training)

- PREPAREDNESS-

- Actions undertaken before an emergency to be ready to respond to and manage its consequences

1. Ensure CDE plans are revised and updated with the establishment of clear roles and awareness of responsibilities and current contact information. If time permits, test communications by doing tabletop exercise. Liaise with service providers, such as airports, hydro, telecom, social services, roads department, water department, health services, mental health, police, EMS, or fire, to communicate which emergency services will remain functioning throughout the response
2. Communicate the community's plan with human resource surge capacity to meet increased demands
3. Maintain and foster partnerships and communicate with local organizations who can aid in the response stage (e.g. paramedics doing testing, shelters, etc)
4. Establish frequency of internal communications during the preparedness phase: how often to meet, who is involved, etc
5. Continue communication/education on public health measures and directions on what to do if showing symptoms of COVID-19. Communicate provincial guidance on the use of non-medical masks outside of the home
6. Communicate the community's plan for setting up isolation sites, should they be required (including obtaining supplies and infrastructure). Anticipate the needs to support individuals in isolation sites/self-quarantine – staffing, food delivery, cultural continuity, etc. Allow community members to provide input on what their needs would be and communicate the steps being taken
7. Communicate the steps being taken by leadership to set up the assessment centre, if located within the community (e.g. where it will be located, when it will be ready, the physical set-up of the space, etc.). Also communicate around work that leadership is doing to prepare regarding back-up air transport and accommodation plans for those transported out of community, should it be required
8. Ensure resources are available to promote mental health and wellness of health care professionals, community leadership and community members. Communicate ways mental health supports can be accessed throughout the pandemic and encourage community members to focus on their mental health by staying physically and mentally active (e.g. stay active while keeping a safe 2 meter distance from others, eat nutritious foods to keep bodies strong, video chat with friends to stay connected, drop food off to elders or those with medical conditions who are at higher risk if infected with COVID-19, while ensuring physical distancing is maintained)
9. Communicate physical distancing guidelines in strategic ways to encourage the following of protocols (e.g. social media campaigns which focus on physically distancing in order to protect the health and safety of Elders)
10. Designate a spokesperson that will be responsible for providing information to the community members around an emergency situation

- RESPONSE –	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions occurring immediately before, during or after emergencies to manage its consequences and minimize loss and suffering 	
1.	Activate the Emergency Plan and the Business Continuity Plan and communicate what that entails
2.	Continue communication/education on public health measures and directions on what to do if showing symptoms of COVID-19; actions community members can take to protect themselves and their families; response efforts to protect the community and how everyone has a role to play in protecting the health and safety of community members, including the most vulnerable
3.	Communicate the steps being taken to assess and test individuals, perform contact tracing,–monitor affected persons, transport high-risk persons, and acquire required personal protective equipment for those who need it (e.g. health professionals, medical drivers)
4.	Communicate around the need to self-isolate affected individuals within the home, as required. If it is difficult to separate the affected individual physically in their own home, hanging a sheet from the ceiling to separate the ill person may be considered. If community members are unable to self-isolate in the home, they may be required to so do outside of the home. In this case, explain the measures being taken to ensure cultural continuity Resource: 1) How to isolate at home when you have COVID-19 2) FNIHB's Cultural Continuity in Isolation Sites Guideline (<i>to follow</i>)
5.	Communicate that cultural gatherings of a certain number of people should be cancelled or postponed or the practice be modified to ensure physical distancing of at least two metres. Encourage community members to conduct ceremonies with family members who live in the same household or via videoconference. Traditional practices such as sweat lodges and pipe ceremonies should be suspended
6.	Designated spokesperson to receive and respond to all media requests, including social media. Throughout response, spokesperson should ensure message consistency and target message appropriately

- RECOVERY –	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions undertaken to repair or restore conditions after the emergency 	
1.	When the time is right, communicate around a roadmap for re-opening through a staged approach which considers the safety of community members
2.	Inform community about the local impact of the pandemic
3.	Evaluate the effectiveness of the Emergency Plan, and share findings with community members. Allow community members to provide feedback to shape a response to potential next wave(s) or future pandemics
4.	Ensure mental health and wellness supports remain in place while community members recover from the impacts of isolation and loss resulting from the pandemic