

Pandemic Emergency Management – Challenge & Tested Solution

Challenge identified:

Consistency in support at outbreak sites

Solution:

Wraparound approach for outbreak site

Steps to Implement:

- Communication: Once a week video to all staff from ED to provide update on current Covid situation. Discuss PPE supply chain, vaccination, and Health & Safety
 - o Include medical communication videos (from regional Chief Medical Officer and RNs on staff) as needed
- Once an outbreak is reported
 1. Outbreak zoom call
 - Leadership, IPAC leads and 2 RNs are on the call
 2. Outline outbreak pay, PPE and medical directives from RNs, reviewing IPAC stages, review people supported in the house and their unique needs. Record conversation in case all staff in outbreak can't be present so they can review later
 3. Wrap supports around the outbreak site
 - IPAC lead goes to outbreak site, conducts audit
 - RN goes into outbreak site, checks on positive cases, and conducts the initial and follow-up PCR tests, ensures people are comfortable

Results

- How effective was this?
 - o Yes. Many sites were in precaution and because of this approach, did not advance to the outbreak stage. Even in outbreak sites, spread was contained because of the wrap around and continuous health support to the site
- Was this efficient? Was it quick to implement?
 - o Yes. Prevented people supported from having to go to the ER. De-escalated stress in staff and kept people safe on site
- Would you recommend this to other agencies?
 - o Yes

Additional Considerations:

Hired RNs for this role

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Lessons learned:

Worth the cost associated with RN onboarding and staffing to implement this approach.

Further contact Person:

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