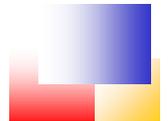
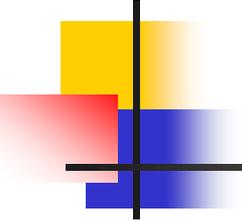




Conne River Health & Social Services Centre

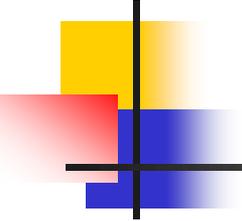
Communicable Disease Emergency
Tabletop Exercise
March 6, 2019





Agenda

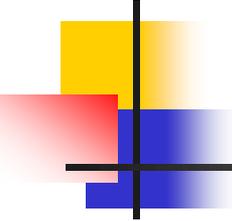
- Introductions/Welcome/Prayer
- What is a Communicable Disease Emergency?
- Why Choose a Communicable Disease Emergency (CDE) Tabletop Exercise?
- Characteristics of a Tabletop Exercise
- Rules
- Purpose/Objectives/Scope
- Scenario/Discussion Points
- Debriefing
- Feedback Form



What is a Communicable Disease Emergency (CDE)?

An urgent and serious situation of a temporary nature that:

- Arises from an infectious disease caused by a microorganism (e.g., bacterium, virus, etc.) and transmissible from person to person, directly or indirectly;
- Seriously affects the lives, health or health system of a community; and
- Overwhelms the health center's capacity, resulting in it requiring additional assistance from other levels of government.



Why Choose a Communicable Disease Emergency Tabletop Exercise?

Enables Players and Observers to:

- Understand their roles and responsibilities in preparing for and responding to a Communicable Disease Emergency (CDE);
- Understand the public health actions needed during a CDE; and
- Analyze developed emergency plans, policies, and potential coordination issues.
- Enhance working relationships between key stakeholders and multi-level community partners.

Characteristics of a Tabletop Exercise

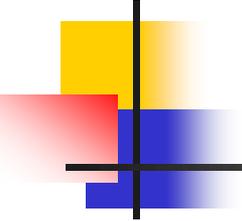
- Discussion-based.
- Facilitated group analysis of a situation.
- Conducted in an informal, low-stress environment.
- Designed for the examination of plans or policies, combined with problem solving.
- Usually deal with “what if” scenarios.
- Delivered within a structured framework.



Rules

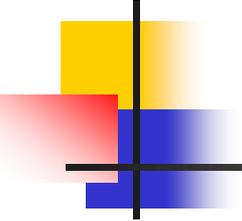
- Please turn off cell phones or set to
- Everyone participates.
- No wrong answers.
- Everyone's opinion counts.
- Use existing policy/procedures as outlined in your emergency plans.
- Relax and Learn.





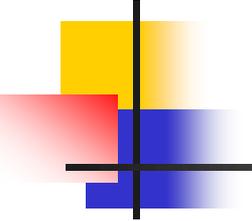
Purpose

- To better enable employees at the CRHSSC to prepare for, mitigate against, respond to/ manage and recover from (in cooperation with Central Health, Provincial Medical Officer of Health (MOH) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)) a CDE event.
- It will also provide information to support updating the 2009 Pandemic Influenza Plan and the 2014 Highly Infectious Diseases Plan.



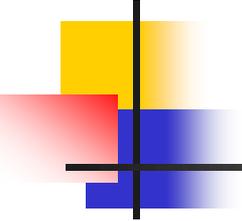
Objectives

- To identify and prioritize emergency response activities (e.g. triage, communication, medical transport, psychosocial requirements, infectious processes: PPE, contact tracing, etc.
- To identify available resources (internal/external).
- To identify/confirm roles and responsibilities and notification processes at the local/regional and provincial/federal levels.



Objectives (Cont'd)

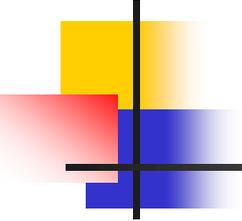
- To determine the ability to activate the personnel required for the prevention and control of the suspect or confirm case/s (emergency response).
- To enhance developed multi-level partner/stakeholder relationships and empower/promote community leadership skills.
- To identify/confirm linkages between the MFN Government's All-Hazards DEM plan and CRHSSC's Health Emergency Management (HEM) plan during a CDE.



Objectives (Cont'd)

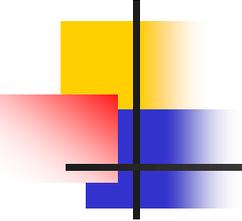
- To build local community capacity which will reduce risk, heighten preparedness, and ensure resilience when faced with a potential CDE.
- To support the review and update of CRHSSC's 2014 Highly Infectious Diseases Plan and the 2009 Pandemic Influenza Plan.
- Identify gaps and prioritize future planning efforts.





Scope

- This exercise will not only assist employees at CRHSSC to better prepare for, mitigate against, respond to and recover from a community CDE event but will also enhance the linkages of noted emergency functions essential to maintaining the well-being of community residents.
- This exercise will also provide an opportunity to review components of developed HEM Plans and identify/address gaps which will ultimately secure the development of sound future plans.

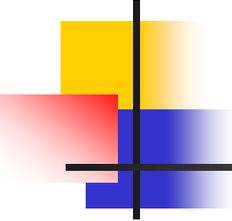


Scenario

An unknown respiratory illness is being reported in countries around the world, including Canada.

Affected people are experiencing moderate to severe signs and symptoms that are similar to seasonal influenza. They are sick for longer than is normal for seasonal influenza.

Young healthy adults who become sick with this illness are needing to be hospitalized. The illness is spreading quickly and human cases are appearing in different places around Canada.

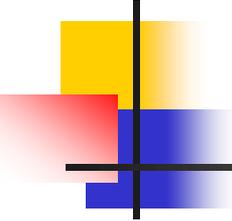


Scenario (Cont'd)

The respiratory illness appears to be different from what health professionals have seen before. People seem to have little to no natural immunity to it, and more and more people are getting sick with it.

Health experts fear that an influenza pandemic may be underway.





Discussion Points

Guiding the Community Through a Potential CDE.

- What emergency plans are in place for your community?
 - What guidance (e.g., all-hazards risks and preventive actions, business continuity procedures, EOC activation, etc.) is included in these plans?
 - Where are these plans kept?
Who can access these plans?



Discussion Points (Cont'd)

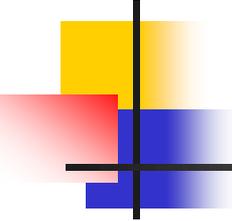
- How often are these plans updated? Who updates these plans?
- What DEM training is carried out in your community/region?
 - Who delivers the training? How often?
 - Who participates in these training sessions?
- Are there mutual aid /service agreements in place with neighboring communities / Central Health?



Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- ❑ What details are included in these agreements?
- ❑ Where are these agreements kept? Who can access these agreements?
- How often are these agreements updated? Who updates these agreements?



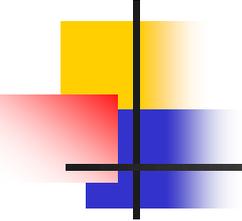


Discussion Points

Infection, Prevention and Control Measures

- Do employees receive information and education on infection control & isolation precautions, PPE?
- Does CRHSSC have a procedure to provide PPE, surgical masks, N-95 respirators, gowns, gloves, etc to designated work locations?
- What is the process in obtaining required PPE and training on infection prevention and control precautions?

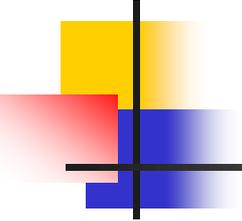




Discussion Points

Public Health Measures

- Who gives you guidance on public health activities/measures to put into practice?
- What routine/everyday (individual-based) public health activities do you promote and encourage?
- What public health measures (community-based) do you consider putting into practice (to minimize illness and spread of infection within settings such as workplaces, schools, church etc.)?

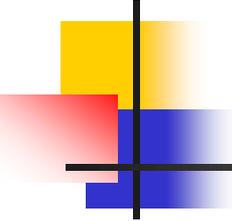


Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- What are the triggers for recommending these public health measures?
- How do you inform community members and staff about the public health recommendations?



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

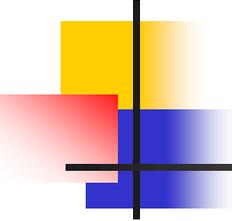


Discussion Points

Emergency Communications Plan

- How do you ensure employees at CRHSSC receive the most up-to-date information on the CDE event?
- How do you ensure members of the community, MFN Government employees/school/daycare center are informed of CDE?
- How do you inform external partners and stakeholders of the prevailing situation in the community?

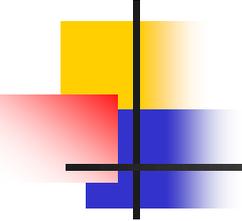




Discussion Points

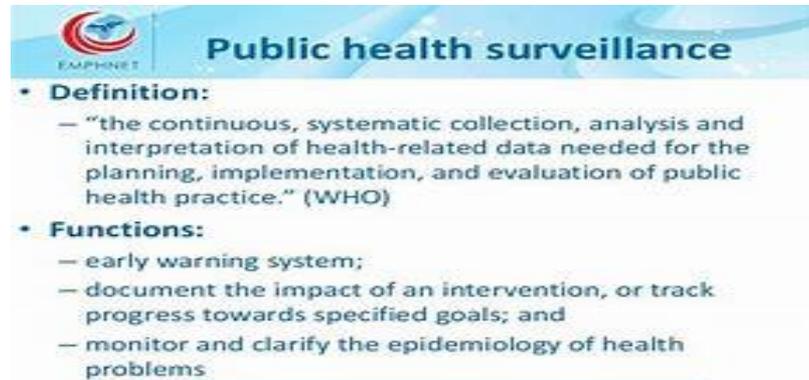
Surveillance

- What processes for keeping track of influenza-like illness in community settings (e.g., school, day care, band council office, etc.) are in place?
- Who gives you guidance on keeping track of cases of unknown respiratory illness?
- How do you currently report influenza-like illness in community members and staff to local and regional health authorities?



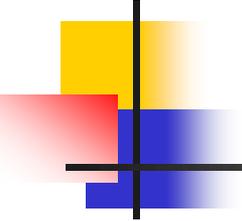
Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- What changes, if any, to regular reporting processes do you make to ensure the illness is reported quickly and efficiently?
- What do you do with the recorded information?
- What sources can provide useful data?



Public health surveillance

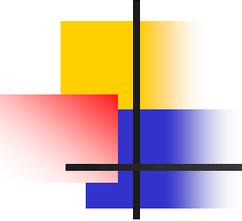
- **Definition:**
 - “the continuous, systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of health-related data needed for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice.” (WHO)
- **Functions:**
 - early warning system;
 - document the impact of an intervention, or track progress towards specified goals; and
 - monitor and clarify the epidemiology of health problems



Scenario (Cont'd)

Individuals in Conne River are now getting sick with the unknown respiratory illness. The number of cases in the community climbs day by day, and current systems (CRHSSC, St. Alban's Clinic) are overwhelmed.





Discussion Points

Continuity of Operations Plan

- What do you do when the number of sick people presenting at a community health facility exceeds the staff, space, and supplies?
- What supports for health care providers working non-stop in response to the unknown respiratory illness are in place?
- What regular community, social, and health services are the most important to maintain? How will this be determined?

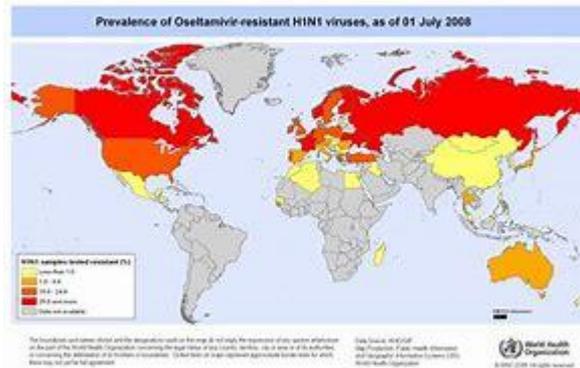
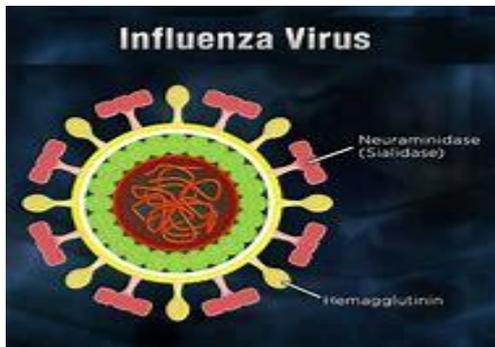
Discussion Points (Cont'd)

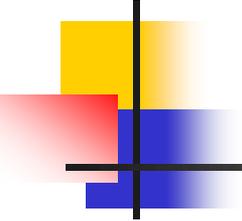
- How do you provide community, social, and health services to people who are staying home due to illness or self-isolation?
- What actions do you take to re-establish regular community, social, and health services?



Scenario (Cont'd)

Health experts declare a worldwide influenza pandemic. Health leaders declare a CDE in Central NL.



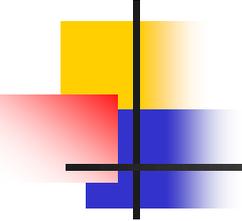


Discussion Points

Confirmation and Management of Diagnosis

- What arrangements for laboratory testing are in place?
- What do you do if extreme weather delays specimen transport?
- What processes for transporting and handling of laboratory specimens are in place?
- How do you determine the next course of action once you receive a positive test result?





Discussion Points

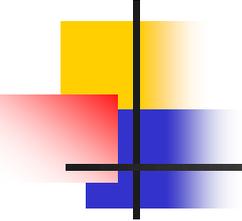
Antiviral Medications

- How/can do you ensure that enough antiviral medications are available for everyone in your community who needs it?
- How do you inform community members and staff if, when, and where to receive antiviral medication for this pandemic influenza virus?
- Where would you store a large quantity of antiviral medications and related supplies, if required?

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- How do you ensure that vulnerable people or those who cannot leave their home receive the services and care they need (including antiviral medication, if recommended)?
- How do you monitor whether antiviral medications are working?
- How do you monitor and report any suspected serious or unusual side effects (e.g., adverse events) to antiviral medications?

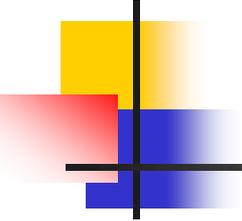




Discussion Points

Illness Management

- Who gives you guidance on illness management to put into practice?
- What information and supplies do community service and health care providers need to feel protected and prepared?
- What steps do you put into practice for individuals presenting to a community service or health facility with symptoms of the unknown illness?

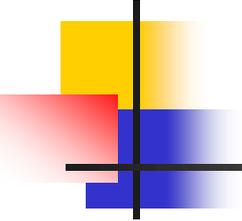


Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- What is your protocol if these individuals present symptoms that require immediate attention?
- How can elders and traditional healers help in managing illness in individuals, families, groups?



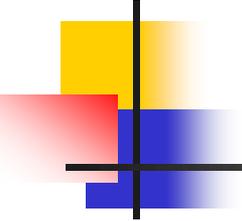
MANAGEMENT



Scenario (Cont'd)

A vaccine for the pandemic influenza virus is produced. It is expected to arrive in Central NL in 10 days.



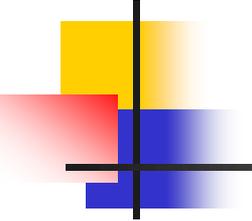


Discussion Points

Vaccine Management

- Where do you store the large quantity of vaccine and related supplies?
- What changes, if any, to routine vaccination processes do you make to ensure community members and staff are vaccinated quickly and efficiently?
- How do you monitor whether the vaccine is working (e.g., vaccine effectiveness)?

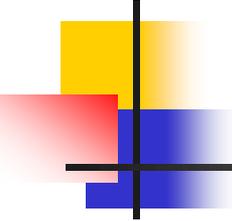




Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- How do you inform community members and staff about when and where to be vaccinated for this pandemic influenza virus?
- How do you ensure that vulnerable people, such as those with disabilities or who cannot leave their home, are vaccinated?
- In the event that vaccine is limited, and demand to receive it is high, is there a process developed to assist in ethical decision-making to help make fair and best practice decisions?





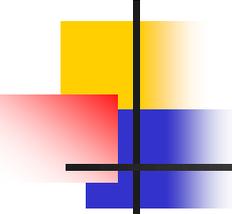
Scenario (Cont'd)

People in your community are no longer getting sick from the pandemic influenza. The Provincial MOH and the Minister of Health, NL declare the CDE is over in the province.

CRHSSC leaders declare the CDE to be over in their community.

CRHSSC employees need to practice self-care both during and after an emergency event.

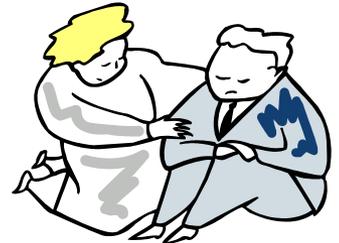




Discussion Points

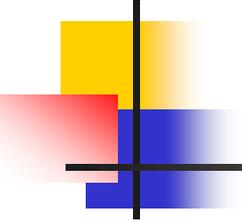
Emergency Event Recovery

- What are the key recovery processes once the emergency is over (e.g., psychosocial support, building community resilience, supply replacement, housekeeping etc.)?
Who is responsible to organize same?



- Is there a formal evaluation process established to capture lessons learned from an emergency event?

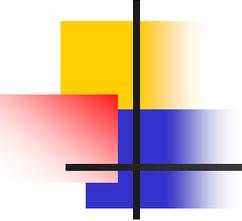




Exercise Conclusion

- Emergency Planning is a continuous process and is an investment that often is not realized until an incident happens.
- Emergency Planning is successful only when it involves local, regional, provincial and national level partners/stakeholders.
- There is only one thing more difficult than planning for an emergency – and that is having to explain why you didn't.

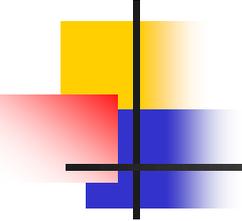




Questions???

Are there any other issues that you have identified that should be addressed?

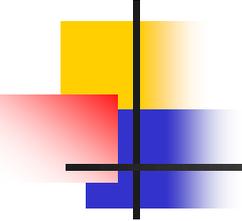




Exercise Feedback

Exercise Feedback Forms are now being distributed. We would appreciate you completing same and leaving it with the Facilitator.

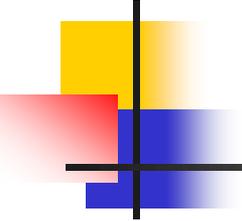
Thank you!!!



Exercise Debriefing

- Rules:

- Be nice
- Don't throw pens or sharp objects
- Be open and honest
- Be brief



Thank-you!!

Betty Moulton

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