

Glossary

Where referred to in this document, the following definitions and interpretations apply¹:

A	
ACIP	Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (US)
Acute	Short-term, intense symptomatology or pathology, as distinct from chronic. Many diseases have an acute phase and a chronic phase.
Acute Care	Acute care refers to services provided by physicians and other health professionals and staff in the community and in hospitals. These include emergency, general medical and surgical, psychiatric, obstetric and diagnostic services.
AEOC	Area Emergency Operations Centre (see EOC)
AI	Avian Influenza (see definition below)
Airborne Precautions	Precautions taken to prevent and control the spread of infection for organisms spread by airborne transmission.
Airborne Transmission	The transmission of infectious agents by dissemination of either airborne droplet nuclei (small particle residue 5 µm or smaller in size) of evaporated droplets that may remain suspended in the air for long periods of time, or dust particles containing the infectious agent.
ALC	Alternate Level of Care (see definition below)
All-hazards Approach	An emergency system or plan that theoretically can be used during any emergency or disaster.
Alternate Level of Care (ALC) (see also Acute Care, InterQual Criteria)	This term refers to alternative care that, had it been available, would have been more appropriate for a person in an acute care hospital who does not meet the criteria for acute care.
Amantadine	An antiviral agent indicated in adults and children >1 year for the treatment of illness due to influenza and for prophylaxis following exposure to influenza A viruses. It has no effect against influenza B viruses.
Antiseptic	A chemical that either inhibits the growth of microorganisms or destroys them. This term refers to agents used on living tissue.
Antiseptic hand rub	A waterless, antiseptic hand rub product that is applied to all surfaces of the hands to reduce the number of microorganisms present.
APIC	Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Avian Influenza (AI)	An infection of poultry caused either by any influenza A virus which has an intravenous pathogenicity index (IVPI) in 6-week old chickens greater than 1.2 or by an influenza A virus of H5 or H7 subtype.

¹ Please note that some terms in this glossary include references, which can be found at the following source: Government of Canada. "Appendix F – Infection Control and Occupational Health Guidelines during Pandemic Influenza in Traditional and Non-traditional Health Care Settings," *Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan*. Available from: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cpip-pclcpi/pdf-cpip-03/cpip-appendix-f.pdf>. March 2004, 200-09.

B	
BC or B.C.	British Columbia
BCAS	British Columbia Ambulance Service (see EHS). Responsible for the medical transportation of patients throughout BC.
BCCDC	British Columbia Centre for Disease Control
BCERMS	British Columbia Emergency Response Management System. This is a comprehensive management system that ensures coordinated and organized provincial response and recovery to any and all emergency incidents. The broad spectrum of BCERMS components includes operations and control management, qualifications, technology, training, and publications.
BCPIAC	British Columbia Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee
BCPIWG	British Columbia Pandemic Influenza Working Group
Bed (<i>Institutional Bed</i>)	In any institution a “bed” includes infrastructure support, including staffing, which is required to care for the patient in that “bed”. Therefore, the requirements for a “bed” in an intensive care unit, for example, include all the support required for a patient to be cared for at that level.
BiPAP	Bi Positive Airway Pressure. This is a form of mechanical ventilation by which gases are moved into the lungs by means of a mechanical device that assists respiration by augmenting or replacing the patient's own respiratory effort. BiPAP provides two levels of pressure (higher pressure on inhalation, lesser on exhalation). Also, see CPAP.
Biomedical Waste	Defined by the Canadian Standards Association (2) as waste that is generated by human or animal health care facilities, medical or veterinary settings, health care teaching establishments, laboratories, and facilities involved in the production of vaccines (3).

C	
Cache	A pre-determined complement of tools, equipment and/or supplies stored in a designated location.
CAWS	Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services
CBRNE	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive
CCG	Central Coordination Group. Provides overall direction to all provincial agencies and resources supporting or assisting with a given emergency situation. It is located at PEP headquarters in Victoria, BC.
CD	Communicable disease
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta, US)
CEPR	Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response
CHICA	Community and Hospital Infection Control Association
CHN	Community Health Nurse
Chronic	A long-lasting health condition that often requires ongoing medical care. Many diseases have an acute phase and a chronic phase.
CIDPC	Canadian Infectious Disease Prevention and Control

Cleaning	The physical removal of foreign material (e.g., dust, soil, organic material such as blood, secretions, excretions and microorganisms). Cleaning physically removes rather than kills microorganisms. It is accomplished with water, detergents, and mechanical action. In certain settings, (e.g., central service or dietetics), the terms decontamination and sanitation may be used for this process. Cleaning reduces or eliminates the reservoirs of potential pathogenic organisms. Cleaning agents are the most common chemicals used in housekeeping activity (3).
CMOH	Chief Medical Health Officer in the HA with legislative authority in the protection of health.
Cohort	Two or more patients exposed to, or infected with, the same organism who are separated physically (e.g., in a separate room or ward) from other patients who have not been exposed to, or infected with, that organism (4).
Cohort Staffing	The practice of assigning specific personnel to care only for patients/residents known be exposed to, or infected with, the same organism. Such personnel would not participate in the care of patients/residents who have not been exposed to, or infected with, that organism (4).
Command Staff	The command staff consists of the Information Officer, Risk/Safety Officer and Liaison Officer (as part of BCERMS).
Communications Unit	An organizational unit in the Logistics section in an Emergency Operations Centre (see EOC) responsible for providing communications services.
Contact Precautions	Precautions taken to prevent and control the spread of infection for organisms spread by contact transmission.
Contact Transmission	The transmission of infectious agents by direct contact or indirect contact as described below (5): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Direct contact occurs when the transfer of microorganisms results from direct physical contact between an infected or colonized individual and a susceptible host (body surface to body surface). ❑ Indirect contact involves the passive transfer of microorganisms to a susceptible host via an intermediate object such as contaminated instruments or other inanimate objects in the patient's immediate environment.
CPAP	Continuous Positive Airway Pressure. This is a form of mechanical ventilation by which gases are moved into the lungs by means of a mechanical device that assists respiration by augmenting or replacing the patient's own respiratory effort. It applies a positive pressure to the inside of the throat to keep it open during sleep. Also see BiPAP.
CPIP	Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan
Critical Resources	Materiel, personnel and finances which are in short supply and are needed by more than one incident management team or are needed for high priority assignments.
Cross-resistance	The development of pathogen strains that not only withstand the effects of a given antimicrobial agent, but other chemically related agents as well.

Critical Items	Instruments and devices that enter sterile tissues, including the vascular system. Critical items present a high risk of infection if the item is contaminated with any microorganism, including bacterial spores. Reprocessing critical items, such as surgical equipment or intravascular devices, involves meticulous cleaning followed by sterilization (3).
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D

Decontaminate Hands	The reduction of bacterial counts on hands is accomplished by performing an antiseptic hand rub or antiseptic hand wash (1).
Decontamination	The removal of disease-producing microorganisms to leave an item safe for further handling (3).
Disinfection	The inactivation of disease-producing microorganisms. Disinfectants are used on inanimate objects; antiseptics are used on living tissue. Disinfection does not destroy bacterial spores. Disinfection usually involves chemicals, heat, or ultraviolet light. Levels of chemical disinfection vary with the type of product used (3).
Documentation Unit	Unit within the planning section responsible for collecting, recording and safeguarding all documents relevant to the incident.
DND	Department of National Defence
Droplet Precautions	Precautions taken to prevent and control the spread of infections for organisms spread by droplet transmission.
Droplet Transmission	The transmission of infectious agents by large droplets, greater than or equal to 5 µm in diameter, generated from the respiratory tract of the source patient during coughing or sneezing, or during procedures such as suctioning or bronchoscopy. These droplets are propelled a short distance, less than 1 metre, through the air and deposited on the mucosa of the nose, mouth, or eyes of the new host.

E

ECC	Emergency Coordination Centre. Located at the PEP headquarters, the ECC receives and disseminates information from multiple sources regarding emergency situations. The 24-hour ECC also serves as the “incident message centre” for the PECC.
EFA	Emergency Financial Assistance available through the PEP.
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EHS	Emergency Health Services. A Commission established in 1974 to oversee the delivery of all emergency health services in BC. BC Ambulance Services works under the EHS Commission (see BCAS).
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre. A pre-designated facility established by a local authority, jurisdiction or agency to coordinate the site response and support in an emergency.
Epidemic	An outbreak of infection that spreads rapidly and affects many individuals in a given area or population at the same time.

Epidemiology	A branch of medical science dealing with the transmission and control of disease, including the study of epidemics and epidemic diseases.
ER	Emergency Room
ESS	Emergency Social Services. Provides short-term services (generally 72 hours) to preserve the emotional and physical well-being of evacuees and response workers in emergency situations.
Exposure	The condition of being subjected to a microorganism or an infectious disease in a manner that enables transmission to occur (6).

F

Fit for Work	<p>Terminology used in occupational health to communicate a worker's ability to remain at or return to work. This ability includes three categories: fit for work, unfit for work, fit with restrictions. This categorization allows the occupational health nurse to maintain confidentiality about a worker's diagnosis, symptoms, immune status, etc. (6)</p> <p><i>Fit for Work</i> – Fit to work with no restrictions</p> <p><i>Unfit for Work</i> – Defined as a restriction from patient care tasks, co-worker contact and restriction from the workplace.</p> <p><i>Fit for work with restrictions</i> – Allows for the re-assignment of duties or re-integration into the workplace in a manner that will not pose an infection risk to the HCW or to the patients and or other individuals in the workplace.</p>
Fit-test	A series of standardized procedures used to determine if a respirator provides an adequate seal around the face. Fit-testing is required for a respirator (e.g. N95) that forms a tight fit with the face.
Flu	A common, slang term for influenza infection, although it is often mistakenly used in reference to gastrointestinal and other types of clinical illness. Also see "Influenza".
F/P/T or FPT	Federal, Provincial and Territorial representation

H

H1N1	An influenza A subtype. A strain of this subtype caused the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic. This subtype continues to circulate in humans and is regularly included in annual human influenza vaccines.
H2N2	An influenza A subtype. A strain of this subtype caused the 1957-58 influenza pandemic. This subtype continues to circulate in humans.
H3N2	An influenza A subtype. A strain of this subtype caused the 1968-1969 influenza pandemic. This subtype continues to circulate in humans and is regularly included in annual human influenza vaccines. Of the three influenza viruses that currently circulate in humans (A/H1N1, A/H3N2, and B), this type causes the greatest annual morbidity and mortality.

H5N1	An influenza A subtype (currently avian only). A strain of this subtype infected both poultry and humans in 1997 in Hong Kong. Of 18 people infected, six died. This subtype has continued to cause poultry outbreaks and sporadic human infections. Of most significance, a strain of this subtype caused widespread poultry outbreaks in several Asian countries in 2004-2005. It has infected several dozen humans, many of whom died. Human infection is primarily through direct poultry contact, although there is concern that this subtype could mutate or reassort to become the next pandemic strain (see http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/ for current information).
H7N3	An influenza A subtype (currently avian only). A strain of this subtype caused a widespread poultry outbreak in the Fraser Valley of BC in spring 2004. Two humans became infected during this outbreak. Illness was mild and resolved quickly.
H7N7	An influenza A subtype, currently avian only. A strain of this subtype caused a widespread poultry outbreak in the Netherlands in early 2003. Eighty-nine humans became infected during this outbreak. Illness was mostly mild and resolved quickly, although there was one case of serious illness resulting in death.
HA	Health Authority (see definition below)
HABCERMS	Health Authority British Columbia Emergency Response Management System. Emergency response management system used by some health authorities in BC.
Hand hygiene/ Hand washing/ Hand antisepsis	Processes of removing soil and transient microorganisms from the hands. Hand hygiene is a general term that applies either to hand washing, an antiseptic hand wash, an antiseptic hand rub, or a surgical hand antisepsis. Hand washing refers to washing hands with plain (i.e., non-antimicrobial) soap and water. A process for the removal of soil and transient micro-organisms from the hands. Hand antisepsis refers to either antiseptic hand wash or antiseptic hand rub. A process for the removal or reduction of resident and transient micro-organisms.
HCW	Health Care Worker (see definition below)
Health Act	A BC provincial statute that mandates MHOs and regulates matters of communicable disease control and sanitation for the purpose of protection of the public from health hazards.
Health Authority (HA)	A health services organization created pursuant to the Health Authorities Act, for the purpose of planning, organizing and delivering a range of facility and community-based health services to either a designated geographic region or target populations.
Health Care Workers (HCW) (Pandemic)	HCWs are professionals, including trainees, and retirees, non-professionals and volunteers, involved in direct patient care; and/or those working/volunteering in designated health care facilities or services. For the purposes of this definition, HCWs are those whose functions are essential to the provision of patient care, and who may have the potential for acquiring or transmitting infectious agents during the course of their work.

HealthGuide (BC)	The BC HealthGuide includes BC HealthGuide Online (information on more than 3,000 common health topics), the BC NurseLine (health information and advice through a toll-free telephone line), the BC HealthFiles (a series of one-page fact sheets on health and safety), and the BC HealthGuide (a handbook with advice and information on more than 190 common health concerns).
Health Service Delivery Area (HSDA)	A geographic area/division of a Health Authority responsible for delivering specified health services.
Health Status	The state of health of an individual or a population.
HEICS	Hospital Emergency Incident Command System. Emergency management system used in health care facilities to manage emergencies/disasters (based on the Incident Command System; see ICS).
Hemagglutinin (H)	A protein on the surface of the influenza virus that helps the virus attach to the respiratory tract. Used to identify and label influenza subtypes and strains.
HERT	Health Emergency Response Team
High Level Disinfection	This term refers to the level of disinfection required when processing semi-critical items. High level disinfection processes destroy vegetative bacteria, mycobacteria, fungi and enveloped (lipid) and non-enveloped (non-lipid) viruses, but not necessarily bacterial spores. High level disinfectant chemicals (also called chemosterilants) must be capable of sterilization when contact time is extended. Items must be thoroughly cleaned prior to high level disinfection (3).
High-Risk Groups	Those groups in which epidemiologic evidence indicates there is an increased risk of contracting a disease.
HLTHSVC	Ministry of Health Services (see MOHS).
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. A highly contagious disease of poultry caused by avian influenza virus and resulting in significant mortality.
HSDA	Health Service Delivery Area (see definition above)

I	
ICS	Incident Command System. A standardized on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.
IEPC	Inter-agency Emergency Preparedness Council
IHA	Interior Health Authority
IM	Intramuscular, i.e., within or into the muscle. A route of immunization delivery.
Immunize	To make immune, as in making able to resist a particular disease, most often through administration of a vaccine delivered by a needle.

Incident Action Plan	Contains objectives reflecting the overall incident strategy and specified tactical actions and supporting information for the next operational period (see Operational Period).
Infection	Condition in which organisms multiply within the body and cause a response from the host's immune defences. Infection may or may not lead to clinical disease.
Infectious Waste	The portion of waste that is capable of producing infectious disease.
Influenza	<p>Clinical Case Definition of Influenza: When influenza is circulating in the community, the presence of <u>fever and cough</u> of acute onset are good predictors of influenza. The positive predictive value increases when fever is higher than 38 °C and when the time of onset of the clinical illness is acute (less than 48 hours after the prodromes). <u>Other symptoms</u>, such as sore throat, rhinorrhea, malaise, rigors or chills, myalgia and headache, although unspecific, may also be present.</p> <p>Confirmed Case of Influenza: Confirmed cases of influenza are those with laboratory confirmation (i.e., virus isolation from respiratory tract secretions, identification of viral antigens or nucleic acid in the respiratory tract, or a significant rise in serum antibodies) or clinical cases with an epidemiological link to a laboratory-confirmed case.</p> <p>Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI): For surveillance purposes, the ILI definition currently used in Canada says:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever (>38 °C) and cough and with one or more of the following: sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia, or prostration, which could be due to influenza virus, as used by the National Influenza Surveillance Program (FluWatch) for the 2002-2003 season. <p>Please note: There may be groups within the population that would not meet this definition, yet are infected with influenza. For example, the elderly, the immuno-compromised, or those taking medications such as steroids, NSAIDS, or ASA, may not develop a fever.</p>
Influenza Type A	A category of influenza virus characterized by specific internal proteins. Influenza A viruses are further sub-grouped according to variations in their two surface proteins, hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N) (e.g., H1N1, H3N2). Influenza A viruses infect animals as well as humans and causes annual influenza epidemics and occasional influenza pandemics.
Influenza Type B	A category of influenza virus characterized by specific internal proteins. Influenza B viruses infect only humans, cause less severe clinical illness than type A, and spread in regional rather than pandemic outbreaks.
Influenza Type C	A category of influenza virus characterized by specific internal proteins. Influenza C viruses do not cause significant clinical illness.

Influenza Virus	There are three types of influenza viruses: A, B and C. Subcategories of influenza (subtypes) are based on the configuration of two proteins on the virus surface – hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N). Subtypes of influenza A virus known to readily infect humans include H1N1, H2N2, and H3N2. Avian influenza A viruses (H5N1, H7N7, H7N3, and H9N2) have also recently been shown to infect humans, although they do not do so readily. The threat of pandemic influenza is related to the introduction of a new subtype of influenza A into the human population.
Inpatient	An individual who receives health care services while admitted in a health care facility overnight or longer.
Intermediate Level Disinfection	The level of disinfection required for some semi-critical items. Intermediate level disinfectants kill vegetative bacteria, most viruses and most fungi, but not bacteria-resistant spores.
IO	Information Officer
iPHIS	Integrated Public Health Information System. iPHIS is a web-based software suite of customized health information management tools. It offers client level tools for daily case management and health surveillance data for regional/provincial/national data reporting. See http://www.ciphs.ca/ciphs_application.html for more information.
Isolation	Isolation means the separation, for the period of communicability of the disease, of an infected person or animal from others in a place and under conditions to prevent the conveyance of the infectious agent to those others.

L

LPAI	Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza. A generally mild disease of poultry caused by avian influenza virus, resulting in respiratory symptoms and a drop in egg production, but little or no mortality.
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	A nursing school graduate who has been licensed by a provincial/territorial body; occasional synonym: Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN).
Low Level Disinfection	The level of disinfection required when processing non-critical items or some environmental surfaces. Low level disinfectants kill most vegetative bacteria and some fungi as well as enveloped (lipid) viruses (e.g., hepatitis B, C, Hantavirus, and HIV). Low level disinfectants do not kill mycobacteria or bacterial spores. Low level disinfectants-detergents are used to clean environmental surfaces (3).
LTCF	Long Term Care Facility

M	
Mask	A barrier covering the nose and mouth to protect the mucous membranes from microorganisms contained in large droplet particles (> 5 µm in size) generated from a source person during coughing, sneezing, or talking and during the performance of certain procedures that generate droplets (e.g., suctioning) or are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions. Masks may also be used to contain large droplet particles generated by coughing or sneezing persons. The term mask refers to surgical masks, not to special masks, such as high efficiency dust/mist masks or respirators.
MD	An individual holding a doctoral degree in medicine.
Mean (statistical)	Commonly referred to as the “average”, the mean of a set of quantities is the sum of the quantities, divided by the number summed.
Median (statistical)	The value such that for a series of ranked quantities, one half are above the median, and one half are below.
MEP	Municipal Emergency Plan
Mg	Milligram
MHO	Medical Health Officer
Ministry of Health Services (MOHS)	The Ministry that supports British Columbians in their efforts to maintain and improve their health.
Mode (statistical)	The most frequently occurring number in a series of numbers.
MOHS	Ministry of Health Services (see definition above).
Morbidity	Illness. Departure from a state of well-being, either physiologic or psychological.
Morbidity Rate	The number of cases of an illness (morbidity) in a population divided by the total population at risk for that illness.
Mortality	Death
Mortality Rate	The number of people who die during a specific time period divided by the total population.
MROC	Ministry Regional Operations Centre. An Operations Centre established and operated by a ministry to coordinate the ministry’s emergency response in that region. Structure and function is similar to PREOC.
Mutation	A permanent, transmissible change in the genetic material of a cell.

N	
N95	A specific type of high efficiency respirator mask worn by staff for protection against airborne-spread bio-aerosols. An N95 is at least 95% efficient at filtering 0.3 µm sized particles.
NACI	National Advisory Committee on Immunization (Canadian)
NBC	Nuclear, Biological, Chemical

Neuraminidase	A protein on the surface of the influenza virus that helps the virus leave one cell in order to spread and infect other cells. Used to identify and label subtypes and strains of influenza. Neuraminidase is the site of action of recently licensed anti-influenza drugs – oseltamivir and zanamivir which are effective against both influenza A and B.
NESS	National Emergency Stockpile System
NHA	Northern Health Authority
NML	National Microbiology Laboratory
NML4	National Microbial Laboratory Level 4. Level 4 is a level of security denoting the ability to work with exotic and dangerous agents that usually produce very serious and often fatal human and animal diseases. These agents are transmitted readily from person to person or from animal to human (and vice versa) through the air or casual contact. Researchers must follow strict entry and exit protocols. In addition, they wear positive air pressure protective suits connected to filtered air lines. The suits are chemically treated after each session and always remain in the secured area of the laboratory. Both Level 3 and 4 containment laboratories are specially constructed using "box-within-a-box" negative air pressure zone principles. In addition, specific building materials and techniques have been used to ensure all systems and surfaces are sealed.
Non-critical Items	Items that either touch only intact skin but not mucous membranes, or do not directly touch the patient/resident/client. Reprocessing of non-critical items involves cleaning and or low level disinfection (3).
Non-Traditional Health Care Settings	Non-traditional health care settings are those settings that are predetermined for operation prior to an influenza pandemic and operational only when an influenza pandemic is declared by the World Health Organization (WHO).
Non-Traditional Site	A site (for pandemic influenza planning) that is not a currently established health care site, or that is a site that usually offers a different type or level of care. During an influenza pandemic, it is expected that non-traditional sites will be needed to provide care for influenza patients and will focus on monitoring, care and support of these patients.
NurseLine (BC)	A telephone line that is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by a registered nurse. The NurseLine provides health information to the citizens of BC (see Website References for contact information).

O

OCIPEP	Office of Critical Infrastructure and Protection and Emergency Preparedness
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety. This promotes occupational health and safety and protection of workers and other persons present at workplaces from work-related risks to their health, safety, and well-being.
OHTSAH	Occupational Health and Safety Agency for Healthcare in BC
OMT	Outbreak Management Team. See definition below.

Operational Period	The period of time scheduled for the execution of a given set of operational actions as specified in the action plan. Operational periods can be various lengths, although usually they are not longer than 24 hours.
Opportunistic Infections	An infection in an immune compromised person caused by an organism that does not usually cause disease in healthy people. Many of these organisms are widely carried in the population in a latent state, and only cause disease when given the opportunity of a damaged/compromised immune system.
Oseltamivir	An anti-viral drug effective against influenza A and B viruses that inhibits the neuraminidase protein, effectively trapping the influenza virus within the host cell and preventing it from infecting new cells. This can help in preventing infection (prophylaxis) or in reducing the duration and severity of illness once infected. It is effective if treatment is started within 48 hours of symptom onset. In Canada and the USA, oseltamivir is sold under the brand name Tamiflu.
Outbreak	An increase in disease activity above expected levels. Also known as an epidemic. The latter term has more serious connotations.
Outbreak Management Team	A highly skilled, multi-disciplinary team established in each of the BC Health Authorities to plan for and respond to diseases with the potential for mass exposure or risk of high morbidity or mortality. OMTs are to be comprised of individuals with specific levels of expertise in health care. Teams ought to include, but are not limited to the following experts: Medical Health Officer, epidemiologist, public health nurse, infection control expert, emergency planner, subject matter expert, occupational health expert, crisis communications expert, health services representative, etc.
Outpatient	An individual who receives health care services without being admitted to a health care facility.

P

Palliative	A treatment which provides symptomatic relief, but is not a cure.
Pandemic	An epidemic disease of widespread prevalence around the globe.
Parent Organization	The organization responsible for the planning of a non-traditional setting operational only in the event of the declaration of an influenza pandemic. When there is no specific organization, another organization must be identified to assume the role of the parent organization.
Parenteral	Method of administering medicine or nutrition through a means other than by the mouth. Intravenous (into the vein), intramuscular (into the muscle), and intradermal (into the skin) administration are all parenteral.
Pathogen	Any disease-producing microorganism or material.
Pathogenesis	The natural evolution of a disease process in the body without an intervention (i.e., without treatment); description of the development of a particular disease, especially the events, reactions and mechanisms involved at the cellular level.

Pathogenicity	The ability or degree to which something can cause disease. A synonym is 'virulence'.
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction (see definition below).
PECC	Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre. An Emergency Operations Centre established and operated at the provincial central coordination level to direct and coordinate the provincial government's overall emergency or disaster response and recovery efforts. Located at the PEP headquarters in Victoria.
Pediatric	Relating to the medical specialty concerned with the development, care and treatment of children from birth through adolescence.
PEP	Provincial Emergency Program (Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General)
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Clothing and equipment, such as masks, eye goggles, face shields, gloves, and gowns, used to prevent exposure to infectious organisms by airborne, droplet, and/or contact transmission.
PHAC	Public Health Agency of Canada
PHI	Public Health Inspector
PHIS	Public Health Information System. Renamed iPHIS (see iPHIS).
PHN	Public Health Nurse
PHO	Provincial Health Officer. The senior medical health officer for BC.
PHSA	Provincial Health Services Authority. The PHSA oversees health agencies delivering services for the entire province including BCCDC, BC Cancer Agency, Children's and Women's Health Centre of BC, Riverview Hospital and other provincial health service agencies (http://www.phsa.ca).
PI	Pandemic Influenza
PIC	Pandemic Influenza Committee. National committee (F/P/T) supported by the federal government to develop pandemic influenza preparedness and response guidelines and to make recommendations to PHAC.
Plain Soap	The organization responsible for the planning of a non-traditional setting operational only in the event of the declaration of an influenza pandemic. When there is no specific organization, another organization must be identified to assume the role of the parent organization.
Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)	A test that can detect DNA fragments of viruses or other organisms in blood or tissue. PCR works by amplifying DNA sequences in vitro and repeatedly copying genetic material using heat cycling and enzymes similar to those used by cells.
Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL)	The PYLL rate per 1000 population is the ratio of the total years of life lost between ages 0 and 75 due to a specific cause to the total population. The cause of death selected is the underlying cause of death, which is the cause that initiated the sequence of events leading to death.
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment (see definition above)

Precautions	Interventions implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from patient to patient, patient to health care worker, and health care worker to patient (5). Certain infectious agents have the potential to be transmitted by multiple means and may require combinations of transmission-based precautions (i.e., contact, droplet, airborne) as well as standard precautions.
Preventive Care	A comprehensive type of care emphasizing priorities for prevention, early detection, and early treatment of conditions, generally including routine physical examinations, immunization, and well-person care.
Preventive Medicine	Taking measures for anticipation, prevention, detection, and early treatment of disease.
PREOC	Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre. An Emergency Operations Centre established and operated at the regional level by provincial agencies to coordinate provincial emergency response efforts.
Primary Care	Primary care is the first level of care, and usually the first point of contact, that people have with the health care system. Primary care involves the provision of integrated, accessible health care services by clinicians who are responsible for addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients, and practicing in the context of family and community. It includes advice on health promotion and disease prevention, assessments of one's health, diagnosis and treatment of episodic and chronic conditions, and supportive and rehabilitative care.
Prophylaxis	The prevention of or protective treatment for disease.
P/T or PT	Provincial and Territorial representation
Public Affairs Bureau (PAB)	The organization within the government of British Columbia that is responsible for managing formal communication between government and the public.
Public Health	The art and science of protecting and improving community health by means of preventive medicine, health education, communicable disease control, and the application of social and sanitary sciences.
PSEPC	Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada
PYLL	Potential Years of Life Lost (see definition above)

Q

QTMH	Quarantine, Travel and Migration Health
Qualitative	Of, relating to, or expressed in relative or subjective terms impossible to precisely quantify.
Quantitative	Of, relating to, or expressed in terms of quantity.
Quarantine	Quarantine means the limitation of freedom of movement of a susceptible person or domestic animal, suspected of being or known to have been exposed to a communicable disease, for a period of time equal to the longest usual incubation period of that disease from the last date of exposure.

<h1>R</h1>	
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Record	A paper or electronic document that contains or is designed to contain a set of facts related to some occurrence, transaction, or the like.
Registered Nurse (RN)	One who has graduated from a college or university program of nursing education and has been licensed by the state.
REOC	Regional Emergency Operations Centre. Used by HAs to manage health sites and services.
Resistance	The development involving strains of a pathogen able to withstand the effects of an antimicrobial agent.
Respirator	A special type of high efficiency filtering mask worn by staff members for protection against airborne hazards. See “N95”.
Respiratory Tract	Structures contained in the respiratory system, including the nasopharynx, oropharynx, laryngopharynx, larynx, trachea, bronchi, bronchioles, and lungs.
Rimantadine	An antiviral agent indicated in adults for the treatment of illness due to influenza and for prophylaxis following exposure to influenza A viruses. It has no effect against influenza B viruses.
Risk Management	The process of making and carrying out decisions that will minimize the adverse effects of injuries, accidental losses and/or liability.
RN	Registered Nurse (see definition above)
Routine Practices	See “standard precautions.”

<h1>S</h1>	
Semi-critical Items	Devices that come in contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes but ordinarily do not penetrate them. Reprocessing semi-critical items involves meticulous cleaning followed by high-level disinfection (3).
SEOC	Site Emergency Operations Centre
SQ	Subcutaneous, i.e., beneath the skin. A route of immunization delivery.
Standard Precautions	<p>Precautions practiced by all employees and medical staff at all times in all health care settings to prevent exposure to all body substances from all patients (referred to as “<u>routine practices</u>” by Health Canada).</p> <p>According to standard precautions, staff must assess their likelihood of being exposed to any bodily fluids by direct or indirect contact, by splashes, or by fine mist sprays. They must then choose and don the appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, mask, eye protection, etc.) prior to entering the space where the exposure may occur.</p> <p>Standard precautions outline the importance of hand hygiene before and after caring for patients, and the need to maintain cleanliness.</p>
Sterilization	The destruction of all forms of microbial life including bacteria, viruses, spores and fungi. Items must be cleaned thoroughly before effective sterilization can take place (3).

Strain	A variation of the influenza virus within a given subtype (e.g., influenza A/Panama/H3N2, influenza A/Fujian/H3N2). New strains appear every few years and are responsible for yearly influenza outbreaks.
Subacute Care	Comprehensive, cost-effective inpatient level of care for patients who: a) have had an acute event resulting from injury, illness or exacerbation of a disease process, b) have a determined course of treatment and, c) though stable, require diagnostics or invasive procedures but not intensive procedures requiring an acute level of care. Typically short term, subacute care is designed to return patients to the community or transition them to a lower level of care. Subacute care is offered in a variety of physical settings. The philosophy of subacute care is to ensure that patients are receiving the most appropriate services at the most appropriate phase of their illness while ensuring quality, cost-effective outcomes.
Subtype	A classification of the influenza type A viruses based on the surface proteins hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N) (see Influenza Virus).
Symptoms	Any perceptible, subjective change in the body or its functions that indicates disease or phases of disease, as reported by the patient.

T

Tamiflu	The name under which oseltamivir is marketed in Canada and the USA (see Oseltamivir).
Toxicity	The extent, quality, or degree of being poisonous or harmful to the body.
Toxin	A harmful or poisonous agent.
Traditional health care settings	Traditional settings include acute, long term, ambulatory and community care.
Transmission-based precautions	Precautions practiced in addition to standard precautions when an infection with a specific mode of transmission is suspected or confirmed. The three basic categories are: contact, droplet, and airborne. However, certain infectious diseases may require the use of combinations of precautions.
Triage	A system whereby a group of casualties or patients is sorted according to the seriousness of their illness or injuries, so that treatment priorities can be allocated between them. In emergency situations it is designed to maximize the number of survivors.

V

Vaccination	The act of administering a vaccine.
Vaccine	A substance that contains antigenic components from an infectious organism. By stimulating an immune response (but not causing disease), it protects against subsequent infection by that organism.
VAAE	Vaccine Associated Adverse Events
VAER	Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting

VCHA	Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
VIHA	Vancouver Island Health Authority
Virology	The study of viruses and viral disease.
Virus	A group of infectious agents characterized by their inability to reproduce outside of a living host cell. Viruses may subvert the host cells' normal functions, causing the virus to control the cell.
Volunteers (Pandemic)	A volunteer is a person registered with a government agency or government designated agency that carries out unpaid activities, occasionally or regularly, to help prepare for and respond to a pandemic influenza outbreak. A volunteer is one who offers their service of their own free will, without promise of financial gain, and without economic or political pressure or coercion.

W

WCB	Workers' Compensation Board
WHMIS	The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) is Canada's hazard communication standard. This includes assessment, signage, labelling, material safety data sheets and worker training. WHMIS closely parallels the US OSHA Hazcom Standard. Most of the content of WHMIS is incorporated into Canada's Hazardous Products Act and the Hazardous Materials Information Review Act which are administered by Health Canada. Certain provincial laws may also apply. Enforcement of WHMIS is performed by the Labour Branch of Human Resources Development Canada or the P/T OHS agencies.
Wild Type	A naturally occurring strain of virus that exists in the population.
WHO	World Health Organization. A specialized agency of the United Nations generally concerned with health and health care.

Z

Zanamivir (sold under the brand name Relenza)	An antiviral drug effective against influenza A and B viruses that inhibits the neuraminidase protein, effectively trapping the influenza virus within the host cell and preventing it from infecting new cells. This can help in preventing infection (prophylaxis) or in reducing the duration and severity of illness once infected. It is effective if treatment is started within 48 hours of symptom onset.
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