
Health PEI COVID-19 Omicron Wave Response Plan

COVID-19 Pandemic

HPEI Emergency Response
Team – Updated: February 28,
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Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Scope and Purpose	1
1.3	Priorities and Objectives	1
2.0	Concept of Operations	1
2.1	Considerations/Decision Points	1
2.2	Decision Making Responsibilities	2
3.0	Health PEI’s Response – Objectives, Strategies and Associated Plans/Arrangements	4
4.0	Other Related Documents	9
5.0	References	9
6.0	List of Appendices	9
	Appendix #1 – Emergency Operations Centre Decision Making Process Map	10
	Appendix #2 – Emergency Operations Centre Response Structure	11

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

A novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) resulting in significant respiratory illness (COVID-19) was identified in December 2019. With the development of new, more transmissible variants, and the associated community spread, response objectives and strategies across Canada and in PEI have transitioned from those focused on containment, to those focused on management of wide spread COVID-19 cases in the community and associated impacts on the health system.

1.2 Scope and Purpose

The *Health PEI COVID-19 Omicron Wave Response Plan* was developed to guide the response to this wave of the pandemic through the identification of objectives, strategies and associated plans and arrangements intended to guide the response of Health PEI.

1.3 Priorities and Objectives

Priorities:

- Reduction in the morbidity and mortality related to COVID-19 and its associated impacts on the health system
- Stabilization of the situation by limiting spread where possible and protecting the integrity of the health care system and its essential services

Objectives:

Objective # 1 - Provide effective care for COVID inpatients and outpatients in safe and appropriate settings

Objective # 2 - Reduce spread and severity of COVID through public and staff vaccination

Objective # 3 - Continuation of critical Health PEI services based on the given COVID situation

Objective # 4 - Undertake screening/testing and contact tracing for COVID 19 (community and internal) as indicated by CPHO

Objective # 5 - Maintaining staffing of critical COVID and non-COVID operations throughout Health PEI

Objective # 6 - Contain COVID outbreaks with Health PEI facilities including limiting staff exposure

Objective # 7 - Monitoring and management of supplies and supply chain to maximize staff safety and efficient use of supply

2.0 Concept of Operations

2.1 Considerations/Decision Points

Discontinuation or change of the overall response (e.g. activation of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), Operations cycle, etc.) and specific objectives and strategies outlined in this plan will require timely decision making. Some decision points may be based on specific thresholds (e.g. number of hospital admissions, bed capacity, outbreaks, etc.) while others may be less specific concepts/situations (e.g. supply chain challenges, human resource shortages, etc.). Decisions on the overall response, objectives and strategies will be based on information including, but not limited to:

- Hospital admissions and patient acuity levels
- Outbreaks within Health PEI facilities/operations and the community and their resolution
- Human resources challenges resulting from COVID-19 (e.g. staff shortages, service/response capacity needs) and their resolution
- Supply chain issues (e.g. PPE/medication shortages) and their resolution
- Impacts on other Health PEI essential services

2.2 Decision Making Responsibilities

This plan is managed by the various sections and branches of the Health PEI Emergency Response Team (ERT)/EOC. Sections and branches are responsible for:

- Developing/redeveloping and implementing strategies and associated plans and arrangements outlined in this plan
- Identifying and communicating the need for changes to the response
- Identifying and communicating challenges and critical situational information
- Making recommendations to ERT/EOC through their branch directors and/or section chiefs.
- See **Appendix 1 EOC Decision Process Map** for further information.

2.2.1 Role of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

- The CEO of Health PEI is the Emergency Operation Director (EOD) and is responsible for:
 - The activation of this response plan and the EOC
 - Setting the operations cycle
 - Setting objectives
 - Final decisions on developing, activating, deactivating or changing applicable strategies.
- The CEO/EOD will communicate changes in the response to the ERT/EOC when they are made.

2.2.2 Role of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)

- Members of the ERT will make up the EOC
- The EOC will monitor their areas of responsibility and report status changes to outlined considerations/decision points to the EOC members and the EOD.
- EOC members will advise the EOD on changes to the overall response, objectives and strategies.
- There will be situations where a surge is required to meet a short-term operational need. This may necessitate short term redeployment of staff, the repurposing of a facility/service area or other alterations to operations. In these cases, EOC members will act as required to fill the short term needs and communicate with other EOC members, impacted personnel, sites, etc. (e.g. short-term surge in testing/immunization requirements).

2.2.3 Notification

- Once the decision to change the overall response, objectives and/or strategies is made, the EOD will inform the EOC (see Appendix 2 for EOC Structure).
- EOC members will be responsible for notifying their teams/direct reports (day to day and within the Health PEI COVID-19 Response Structure) of any changes to the objectives or strategies and associated impacts.
- The Communications Officer will develop and release a system wide notification to all Health PEI staff in conjunction with the EOC and EOD as necessary.

2.2.4 Site and Service Level Plan Activation

- Various site and service level plans/arrangements are identified in this plan (e.g. Care in Place/ Outbreak Response Plans, plans for the admission and care of COVID-19 positive patients in hospital, etc.).

- In many cases these plans will have their own activation and escalation mechanisms built in (e.g. identification of an outbreak in long term care triggering the activation of the LTC Care in Place Strategy) and will be activated/escalated based on those processes.
- When these plans are activated, they may signify changes related to identified considerations/decision points noted in this plan and activations may need to be communicated to ERT/EOC by the respective section chief.
- In some cases, the EOD, in consultation with the EOC, will mandate the activation of one or more of these plans (e.g. decrease in services/service levels). In these cases, notification will come through the process outlined in section 2.3.3.

3.0 Health PEI’s Response - Objectives Strategies and Associated Plans/Arrangements

Below are specific objectives and associated strategies for the achievement of these objectives. In some cases, these strategies guide the development and implementation of site/service level plans and arrangements as noted, in others, the ERT/EOC will be responsible for plan execution.

Objectives and Strategies	Assignment	Associated Plans/Arrangements
OBJECTIVE #1 - Provide effective care for COVID inpatients and outpatients in safe and appropriate clinical settings		
Strategy – Open beds on COVID specific units as the need for admissions warrants	-Hospitals/Provincial Programs Branch	-Health PEI COVID-19 Omicron Wave Bed Surge Plan
Strategy – Move patients to appropriate care beds throughout the system as necessary to free beds on COVID specific units	-Hospitals/Provincial Programs Branch	-Provincial Patient Flow System SBAR (structure/roles and responsibilities)
Strategy - Apply specific protocols/procedures for the admission and care of COVID positive patients	-Hospitals/Provincial Programs Branch	-Health PEI COVID-19 Patient Admission Guideline - COVID patient Medical Admission and ICU Admission order sets - Health PEI COVID Positive Patient Transport Protocol -Mental Health and Addiction COVID positive Care in Place Plan -Health PEI Firstline App for Clinical Management and Treatment of Coronavirus -Individual site and unit level plans (e.g QEH Unit 3, Unit 5, ICU)
Strategy – Care for residents/inpatients who test positive for COVID and do not need advanced COVID related care, in their current facilities or at home	-Community and Seniors Branch - Mental Health and Addictions Branch	-Long Term Care – Care in Place Strategy -Mental Health and Addiction COVID-Positive Contingency Plan -Care of COVID positive patient across Health PEI acute care facility policy

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		-Home Care support
Strategy - Set up and operate cough and fever assessment clinics (including booking) for the assessment of patients with COVID-19 like symptoms	-Community and Seniors Branch	-Cough and Fever Clinic Operational Plan
Strategy – Care for patients decanted from hospital in their home with additional supports as is deemed medically safe to do so	-Community and Seniors Branch	-Home Care Plus Plan -Hospital at Home Plan -Mobile Integrated Health – Rapid Bridging to home program
Strategy – Ensuring access to and appropriate distribution of antiviral and other medications (including management of supply and supporting FTP partners)	-Hospitals/Provincial Programs Branch -Community and Seniors Branch	-EOC Decision Process Map -Process for prescribing and administering antiviral and other medication identified to manage COVID 19 in patients and clients
OBJECTIVE #2 - Reduce spread and severity of COVID through public and staff vaccination		
Strategy - Set up and operate pop up and regional mass COVID vaccination clinics for public as per CHPO direction (including associated booking with contracted services and vaccine supply management)	-Community and Seniors Branch	-Contract/Pop up/pharmacy vaccination clinics -Mass vaccination clinic operational plan
Strategy - Set up and operate COVID vaccination clinics for staff	-Safety Officers -Community and Seniors Branch	- COVID-19 3 rd Dose Staff Vaccine Clinics (monthly schedules)
OBJECTIVE #3 Continuation of critical Health PEI services based on the given COVID situation		
Strategy – Directing reduction in services delivered based on situational needs	-ERT/EOC	-EOC Decision Process Map
Strategy – Implement facility and service level “Essential Services” plans as directed by ERT/EOC	-All Operations, Planning and Logistics/Finance & Admin Branches	-Facility and Service level Essential Services identification documents
Objective #4 Undertake screening/test and contact tracing for COVID 19 (community and internal) as indicated by CPHO		
Strategy - Set up and operate COVID testing clinics for the public as per CPHO direction	-Community and Seniors Branch -Hospitals/Provincial Programs Branch	- Testing Guidance for COVID-19 -Testing Clinic Operational Plans -Testing Clinic Surge Plan -Laboratory Services Contingency /Surge Plan

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobile testing Unit -Interim Measures to Preserve Lab Testing Capacity -Implementation of IDNow machines to support testing needs
Strategy - Implement accelerated testing protocol for staff	-Safety Officers Hospitals/Provincial Programs Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff COVID-19 Testing and Work Isolation Protocols and Contact Tracing -Fast Pass program
Strategy - Undertake contact tracing and case management as per CPHO guidance	-Community and Seniors Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Public Health Nursing contact tracing/case management and follow up operational plans
Strategy - Undertake contact tracing, per CPHO guidance, amongst Health PEI Staff	-Safety Officers -All Operations Branches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff COVID-19 Testing and Work Isolation Protocols and Contact Tracing
OBJECTIVE #5 Maintaining staffing of critical COVID and non-COVID operations throughout Health PEI		
Strategy – Directing reduction in services delivered based on situational needs.	-Emergency Response Team	-EOC Decision Process Map
Strategy – Implement facility and service level service reductions as directed by ERT/EOC	-All Operations, Planning and Logistics/Finance & Admin Branches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EOC Decision Process Map -Facility and Service level Essential Services identification documents -COVID staffing needs template
Strategy - Redeploy staff from reduced service areas to alternate work sites to support COVID-19 operations based on requests/needs.	-HR Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EOC Decision Process Map -Expression of Interest for redeployment -Redeployment Survey -Facility and Service level Essential Services identification documents - Staff Redeployment Process -COVID staffing needs template
Strategy - Contract and assign external contractors to support critical HPEI COVID operations	-Logistics/Finance & Admin Branch Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Canadian Health Lab Contract -Red Cross Contract

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		-Veteran Affairs Canada Nurses Contract
Strategy - Implement and monitor vaccinate/test policy	-Safety Officers -All Operations Branches	-COVID-19 Immunization and Management Policy
Strategy – Work Isolation of symptomatic and non-symptomatic staff	-Safety Officers -All Operations Branches	-Management of symptomatic staff protocol - Staff COVID-19 Testing and Work Isolation Protocols and Contact Tracing
OBJECTIVE #6 Contain COVID outbreaks with Health PEI facilities including limiting staff exposure		
Strategy - Develop and implement testing protocols for patients/residents/clients.	-All Operations Branches	Testing Guidance for COVID-19 from Provincial Lab and CPHO
Strategy - Develop and implement plans for the management of outbreaks within inpatient and residential facilities	-All Operations Branches	-Hospital Outbreak Management Plan -Long Term Care – Care in Place Strategy -Mental Health and Addiction COVID-Positive Contingency Plan - Staff COVID-19 Testing and Work Isolation Protocols and Contact Tracing
Strategy - Develop and implement operational plans in accordance with CPHO guidance at inpatient, residential and community/non-inpatient facilities/services	-All Operations, Planning and Logistics/Finance & Admin Branches	-Government of Prince Edward Island COVID-19 Operational Plan Template -Site and service level operational plans
Strategy - Implement, monitor and adjust visitor protocols/restrictions in accordance with CPHO guidelines and Health PEI needs	-Safety Officers -All Operations Branches	Visitor Policy and Protocols for Health PEI Facilities, Including Long Term Care
Strategy - Implement staff N95 fit testing strategy for Health PEI Staff	-Safety Officers -All Operations Branches	-N95 Fit Testing Plan/Schedule
Strategy – Provision of appropriate PPE and guidance on appropriate and efficient use (updated as required) for Health PEI Staff	-Safety -Materials Management and Contracting	-Interim Recommended PPE for Omicron Variant -Weekly PPE Supply Summary -PPE Champions and ordering process

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OBJECTIVE #7 Monitoring and management of supplies and supply chain to maximize efficient use of supply		
Strategy - Active identification and monitoring of the critical PPE supply situation	- Logistics/Finance & Admin Branches	Weekly PPE Supply Reports
Strategy – Secure long-term supply of PPE based on changing run rates	- Logistics/Finance & Admin Branches	GPO and supply chain partners
Strategy - Use of PPE Champions to ensure the efficient distribution of PPE throughout the system	- Logistics/Finance & Admin Branches - All Operations Branches	PPE Champions and ordering process

4.0 Other Related Documents

In addition to the plans and arrangements noted above, the below documents/plans either support or have supported the development of this response plan and associated objectives, strategies, plans and other arrangements:

- [PEI Public Health Orders Related to COVID-19](#)
- Health PEI All Hazards Plan
- Prince Edward Island Pandemic Contingency Plan for the Health Sector
- Community-Based Care Response Plan (Surge Plan)
- Home-Based Care Surge Plan (LTC, Home Care, Geriatrics and Palliative Care)
- Provincial Laboratory Services Operations Plan

5.0 References

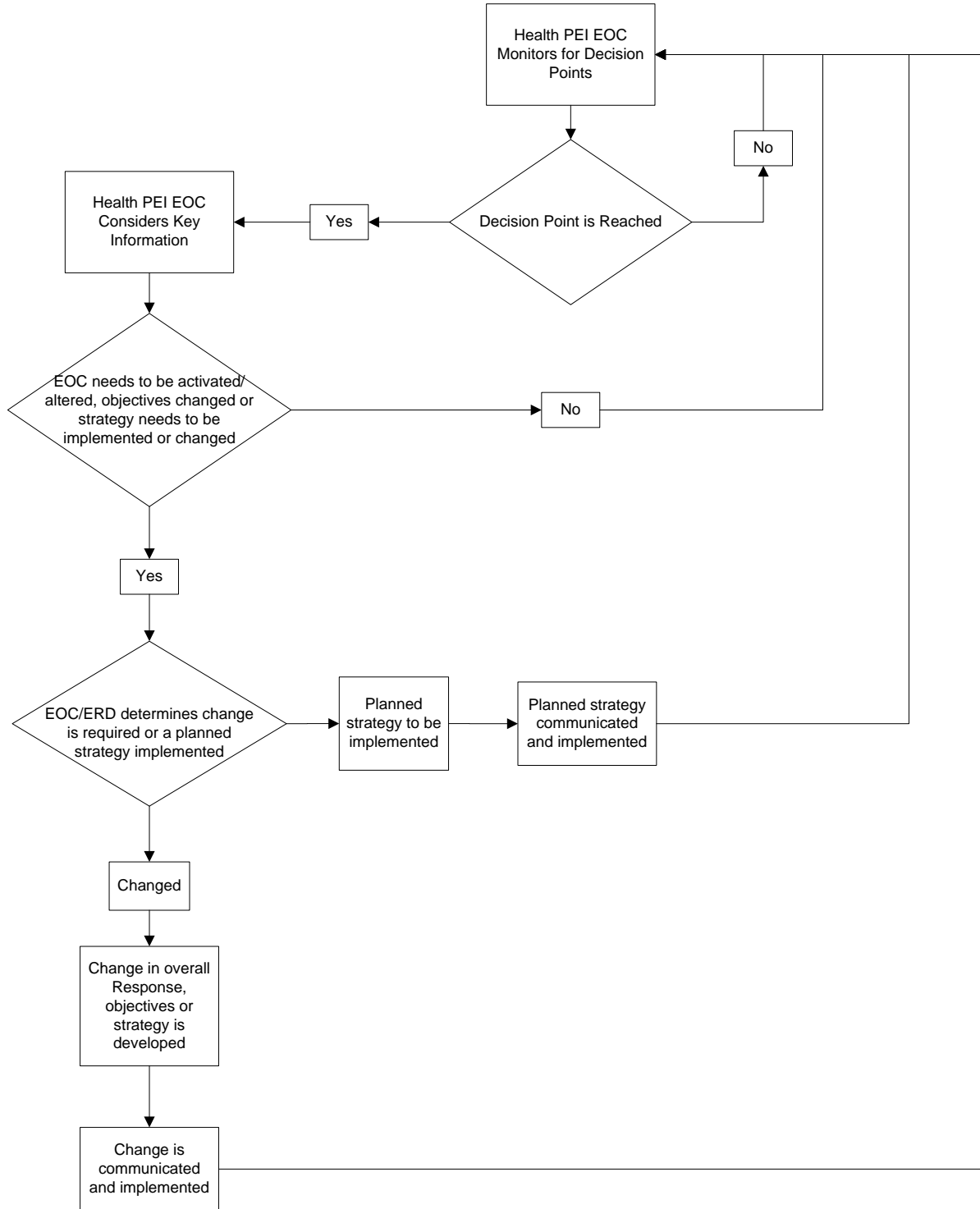
- Alberta Health Services Continuing Care Pandemic Operational guide (COVID-19) 2020
- Health PEI All Hazards Plan, 2021 Version 4.1
- Health PEI COVID-19 Clinical Operational Plan, October 13, 2020
- [Prince Edward Island Pandemic Contingency Plan for the Health Sector](#)

6.0 List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Emergency Operations Centre Decision Process Map

Appendix 2 - Emergency Operations Centre Response Structure

Appendix 1 – Emergency Operations Centre Decision Making Process Map



Appendix 2- Emergency Operations Centre Response Structure

Health PEI Emergency Operations Centre COVID Response Structure

