

# Steps to help in flu outbreak preparedness

- Have an **Outbreak Management Plan**.
- Facilitate high (>90%) flu vaccination coverage for residents and staff.
- Establish a **vaccination register** to record the flu vaccination status of all residents and staff each year. Transfer a residents' vaccination record with them if they change facilities.
- Consult with your visiting GP pre-season about the use of **antivirals** in an outbreak. Document your agreed antiviral strategy in your flu management plan.
- If you plan to use antivirals, request **standing orders** for the use of antiviral medication to enable early initiation of treatment and/or prophylaxis. Consider pre-ordering some stock of antivirals to avoid supply issues during the flu season.
- Provide **staff training** in the correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and in infection control practices, particularly standard precautions and transmission based droplet and control precautions.
- Ensure **availability of adequate stocks** of PPE, cleaning materials and signs for visitors and residents. Understand what the wait time is for replacement stock and maintain stock levels accordingly.
- Contact your pathology provider to request a small supply of **appropriate swabs for specimen collection to enable prompt testing**.
- **Provide information** to residents' families before the flu season to raise their awareness of your infection control policies, including isolation protocols, possible visitor restrictions and the benefits of flu vaccination.