Overview of Activities

- Create an outbreak in Merlin’s outbreak module within the same day of notification of any one of the following:
  - Priority: long-term care facility, skilled nursing facility, or assisted living facility
    - One or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among residents or staff, or
    - Two or more acute respiratory illness (ARI) cases among residents or staff within 96 hours, or
    - Two or more pneumonia cases among residents or staff within 96 hours
  - Correctional facility/juvenile detention center, adult daycare, hospital, post-secondary school, shelter, workplace, other setting type (excluding household-associated cases, primary or secondary schools, and child daycares)
    - One laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case and one individual with ARI within 96 hours, or
    - Two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases within 96 hours, or
    - Two or more ARI cases within 96 hours
    - **Priority: a combination of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases or ARI cases that is greater than or equal to five within 96 hours**
  - Primary or secondary school or child daycare
    - One laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case and two or more ARI cases that all share an epidemiologic linkage (same classroom, bus, extracurricular activity, etc.) within 96 hours, or
    - Two laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and one or more ARI cases that all share an epidemiologic linkage (same classroom, bus, extracurricular activity, etc.) within 96 hours, or
    - Three or more ARI cases that all share an epidemiologic linkage (same classroom, bus, extracurricular activity, etc.) within 96 hours
    - **Priority: a combination of epi-linked (same classroom, bus, extracurricular activity, etc.) laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases or ARI cases that is greater than or equal to five within 96 hours**

An ARI case is defined as an individual with two or more of the following symptoms:
- Coryza/runny nose
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Wheezing

- Link any laboratory-confirmed COVID cases to the outbreak you create.
- Add any ARI cases who have specimens collected for testing at the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) to the people roster in the outbreak.
  - Adding people will prompt BPHL laboratory results to auto-attach to the outbreak as they become available in ELR.
• Complete the following essential fields upon outbreak creation:
  o Background section:
    ▪ Outbreak name
    ▪ FDOH notified date
    ▪ Syndrome
      ▪ Select “respiratory illness”
    ▪ Disease
    ▪ Outbreak
    ▪ Investigated
  o Geographic location section:
    ▪ County
  o Setting information section:
    ▪ Setting type
    ▪ Setting name
    ▪ Setting address
    ▪ Number potentially exposed
  o Transmission:
    ▪ Primary mode of transmission
      ▪ Select “direct – person to person or droplet”
  o Results section:
    ▪ Total cases & total type
    ▪ Total non-staff cases
    ▪ Total staff cases
    ▪ Total unknown cases
      ▪ Leave blank or record “0” if you record staff and non-staff case counts
    ▪ Number hospitalized & total type
    ▪ Number died & total type
  o Additional information section:
    ▪ Question 1 (number of cases with reported pneumonia) & total type
    ▪ Question 2 (were specimens collected for testing at BPHL?)
    ▪ Question 3 (were viral agents identified outside of BPHL?) & table (if applicable)
    ▪ Question 4 (other pathogens, if applicable)
    ▪ Question 5 (active surveillance recommended & implemented)
    ▪ Question 6 (postponement of group activities recommended & implemented)
    ▪ Question 7 (isolation/quarantine of residents recommended & implemented)
    ▪ Question 8 (coordination of additional PPE or other supplies)
    ▪ Question 9 (employee education on hand hygiene and PPE use)
  o Clinical results section:
    ▪ Symptoms
  o Laboratory results section:
    ▪ Laboratory-confirmed human specimens
  o Conclusions/lessons learned section:
Recommendations/specific control measures provided to site/facility
Method of providing recommendations (select all that apply)
Recommendations implemented

- Update the outbreak daily until the outbreak has ended.
- Close the outbreak when the investigation has ended by entering the date the investigation ended (background section).
- Once closed, submit the outbreak.