

**COVID-19** - Niagara is under a **provincewide stay-at-home order**. Learn about the **COVID-19 vaccination** and **service disruptions**.

## Pandemic Planning - Preparedness

Pandemics are a type of emergency. Events such as infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters such as severe weather, and environmental accidents can result in a public health emergency. A public health emergency can occur at any time.

### Be Prepared for an Pandemic Emergency

- [Is your family prepared?](#)  
Assists you and your family to know the risks of an emergency, make a plan and get a kit so you are prepared for 72 hours during an emergency. (Government of Canada)
- [Pandemic Planning General Plans, Presentations, and Resources](#)  
How to plan and prepare for a pandemic - whether as a public service, a health care provider, a faith group, first responder, or a general employer. (Ministry of Health and Long Term Care)
- [Business Continuity Tool Kit for Employers](#)  
(Niagara Region)
- [Handwashing Information](#)

### Causes of Public Health Emergencies

Public health emergencies can be due to:

- **Infectious Disease Outbreak** - Increase in cases of a disease caused by a virus, bacteria, or parasite such as influenza or salmonella that becomes severe and affects a large part of the population.
- **Bioterrorism** - Deliberate release of bacteria, viruses, or toxins that cause illness or death in humans or animals.
- **Natural Disasters** - Floods, wildfires and extreme hot or cold weather can lead to disruptions such as power outages and mass evacuations.
- **Chemical Disaster** - Chemicals are released that have the potential to harm people. These can be released unintentionally (e.g. industrial accidents) or intentionally (due to terrorism). Examples of harmful chemicals are chlorine, ammonia and benzene, while chemical terrorism may use nerve agents, mustards and choking agents.
- **Radiation Disaster** - Nuclear power plant accidents or terrorism where people are exposed to radiation.