

Quarantine Revisited

Narrative: The Spanish flu pandemic a century ago prompted the last large-scale quarantines in the US. SARS prompted similar large quarantine responses in Canada in 2003. The Ebola outbreak has again caused the health sector to reassess the utility of ordering quarantines as an effective way to fight deadly disease. This session will discuss the current thinking about the quarantine as a tool for infectious disease response.

Objectives:

1. Describe the challenges of using quarantine as a tool to manage infectious disease in highly mobile and educated societies.
2. Discuss the preparedness of Federal, State and Provinces to have quarantine capability.
3. Present options for mass quarantine such as self-quarantine or self-monitoring. Are these options effective?