

Enteric Outbreak Control Measures for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes

Suspect outbreak

If an outbreak is suspected, notify

Huron Perth
Public Health at
1-888-221-2133 ext 3284
or idteam@hpph.ca

After hours, call
1-800-431-2054

1	Facility name _____
	Outbreak number (5183-202X-XXXXX) _____
1	Case Definition A case is defined as a resident or staff who has been in the facility within the last 24 hours and is experiencing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two or more episodes of unformed or watery stool within a 24-hour period OR • Two or more episodes of vomiting within a 24-hour period OR • One episode of unformed or watery stool and one episode of vomiting within a 24-hour period OR • At least one symptom compatible with enteric infection (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or tenderness AND lab confirmation of a known gastrointestinal pathogen).
	Enteric Outbreak Definition An outbreak of gastroenteritis is defined as two or more people (residents or staff) with the same symptoms, in the same floor/unit within a 48-hour period. Symptoms must meet the case definition above and not be attributed to another cause (e.g., medication side effects, laxatives, diet or prior medical condition) and are not present or incubating upon admission.

Outbreak administration

2	Define the outbreak area of the home (e.g., floor, unit or whole facility). Post signage at all entrances that indicates home is in a enteric illness outbreak. Post signage at all entrances of enteric illness signs and symptoms. Consider cohorting of staff and residents. Ensure adequate staffing plan is in place. Discuss any staffing concerns with Outbreak Management Team (OMT).
	Notification Report outbreak as per facility's policy and procedure. Notes

Surveillance

Report hospitalizations and/or deaths to HPPH
1-888-221-2133 ext 3284

3	Daily line listing (password protected) with case updates of residents and/or staff; email idteam@hpph.ca
	Notes

Contact precautions and/or droplet contact precautions

4	Hand hygiene
	Reinforce hand hygiene with soap and water when visibly soiled.
	Use alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) 70-90%, when hands are not visibly soiled.
	Post signs.
	Stock supplies and check expiry dates.

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Contact precautions
and/or droplet
contact precautions

4	Mask (based on point of care risk assessment)
	During procedures likely to generate splashes or sprays of body fluids, feces or vomit. Discard immediately after use. Visitors should wear mask and eye protection when within two metres of case.
	Eye protection (based on point of care risk assessment)
	During procedures likely to generate splashes or sprays of body fluids, feces or vomit. Clean or dispose once removed.
	Gloves
	With direct care and sample collection. Change as needed (if ripped or damaged) and discard immediately after use before leaving room. Perform hand hygiene.
	Gowns
	Long-sleeved gown during procedures likely to generate splashes or sprays of body fluids, feces or vomit.
	Notes

Residents

5	Recommend case remain in their room
	Until 48 hours symptom-free OR follow disease-specific exclusion criteria once causative agent is known, in consultation with health unit.
	Residents with one symptom
	Observe in room for 24 hours and use contact and/or droplet precautions.
	Restrict all affected residents to unit/cohort where feasible.
	Avoid admissions/readmissions to outbreak area
	If admission is required, consider the following:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident (or substitute decision-maker) consents to the admission or transfer. • Resident is admitted or transferred to a private room. • Attending physician to be consulted.
	Avoid transfers to other facilities.
	Transfer to hospital required
	Facility to advise hospital and paramedics of outbreak situation prior to transfer.
	Communal activities and day programs
	Consider changing or postponing activities based on severity and spread (e.g. smaller group size).
	No ill residents to attend, or cancel program.
	Discontinue group outings from affected floor/unit.

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Residents	<div>5</div> <p>Appointments</p> <p>Reschedule non-urgent appointments.</p> <p>Urgent appointments for residents can continue. Facility to advise clinic/hospital and transport prior to appointment.</p> <hr/> <p>Testing</p> <p>Attempt to collect stool specimens from at least 5 symptomatic residents with diarrhea (formed stool will not be tested).</p> <p>Ensure testing kits available and not expired.</p> <p>Appropriate lab requisition available.</p> <p>Notes</p>
Staff/volunteers	<div>6</div> <p>Staff to report symptoms to facility as per facility policy.</p> <hr/> <p>Return to work</p> <p>Staff are to be off work until they are symptom-free for 48 hours OR follow disease-specific exclusion criteria once causative agent is known, in consultation with public health.</p> <hr/> <p>Cohort Staff</p> <p>Have dedicated staff care for ill residents, if possible, OR provide care to ill residents last.</p> <hr/> <p>Working at other facilities</p> <p>If working at more than one facility, staff need to advise all employers of outbreak status and follow other facility's policy.</p> <hr/> <p>Dietary staff</p> <p>If staff become ill while doing food preparation, may need to discard all <i>ready to eat food</i> prepared by the ill staff.</p> <p>Any dietary staff worked while ill? Yes No</p> <p>Notes</p>
Visitors	<div>7</div> <p>Essential visitors are allowed in an outbreak area.</p> <p>Provide and encourage use of appropriate PPE, and reinforce hand hygiene.</p> <p>Limit the number of residents visitors interact with and reinforce visitors to not participate in unnecessary social interactions.</p> <p>General visitors should postpone all nonessential visits.</p> <p>Visitors should not enter if they have any symptoms of gastrointestinal or respiratory illness, or any other communicable disease.</p> <p>Notes</p>

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Environmental cleaning

Cleaning and disinfection

Enhance environmental cleaning of high touch surfaces including kitchen and dining surfaces. Norovirus can last on surfaces for 12 days.

Increase cleaning and disinfection of all surfaces in residents' rooms to reduce spread.

Check concentration, contact time and effectiveness of disinfectant against Norovirus or identified pathogen.

Name of disinfectant _____ DIN _____

Concentration used (if not ready to use) _____

Dedicate resident care equipment to ill resident or disinfect between uses.

Cleaning principles: Clean to dirty Top to bottom

Ensure availability of handwashing supplies, alcohol-based hand rub, cleaning/disinfectant wipes etc.

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Kitchen

Advise kitchen to switch to bleach as sanitizer if what currently using is not effective against common outbreak pathogens (e.g., Norovirus) (Quat is typically ineffective)

- 100ppm for 45 seconds for utensils and dishwashing
- 5000ppm for 10 minutes for food contact surfaces
- See [Chlorine Dilution Calculator | Public Health Ontario](#)

If not using/switching to bleach, ensure the disinfectant used is effective against common outbreak pathogens and is approved for use in food premise and/or on food contact surfaces. Check Manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFU) and appropriate contact time.

Any changes in menu or new supplier? Yes No Request copy of menu.

Any equipment failures (power, refrigeration, dishwasher, etc.)? Yes No

Any special events or celebrations where food was served other than menu items (including food from another source or families)? Yes No

Notes

Audits

Increase frequency of audits:

- Hand hygiene
- PPE
- Environmental cleaning

Discuss concerns with IPAC Hub; email ipachub@hpph.ca

Notes

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Declaring outbreak over

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The end of an outbreak is determined on a case-by-case basis. The specific period will be decided by the health unit, in consultation with the facility and is based on the transmission risk.

The specific period varies by pathogen, but generally:

- If Norovirus is suspected the outbreak can be declared over after five days with no new resident cases (one infectious period (72 hours) plus one incubation period (48 hours). If the last case is staff, outbreak can be declared over after one incubation period has passed (48 hours).
- If Norovirus is not suspected, no confirmed pathogen was found from testing and all appropriate precautions were taken, the outbreak can be declared over 48 hours after the symptoms of the last case have resolved.

Notes

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Reviewed control measures

Required

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Reviewed with:

Name _____ Position _____

PHN/PHI, sign and date here (Required)



Position at HPPH PHN PHI

Date (yyyy/mm/dd) _____