

Guidelines for Acute Gastroenteritis or Norovirus Outbreaks in Schools and Healthy Populations

Define the outbreak...

Case Definition: vomiting or two or more episodes of diarrhea in a 24 hour period

Outbreak Definition: Onset of 3 to 5 new cases within in a 3 day period

When you have an outbreak...

1. Begin a line listing of ill persons (including staff)
 - Complete for the duration of the outbreak (until you have no new cases for 48 hours)
 - Use the line listing to track the progress of the outbreak and to adjust your control measures.
 - An example can be found at the following website: <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/ob/Pages/norovirustoolkit.aspx>
2. Implement appropriate control measures (see below)
3. Report the outbreak to your local health department and stay in touch throughout the outbreak.
4. Collect specimens
 - Discuss the need for testing with your local health department or Infectious Disease Epidemiology Division.
 - If you choose to collect specimens, please collect 5-10 stool specimens from recently ill persons. Information on collection and shipment are attached and can also be found on the Office of Laboratory Services website.
 - http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/shared/docs/Micro/Collection_and_Transport_Guidelines_for_Noroviruses.pdf

To help control the spread of infection...

1. Practice good hand hygiene
 - Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water
 - Ensure all individuals wash before eating or drinking, after going to the bathroom, or after contact with an ill person
2. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves, face shield, gown, etc.) when cleaning up a vomiting or diarrheal incident
3. Disinfect contaminated surfaces with the following method:
 - Clean surfaces with a detergent to remove particulate debris, followed by application of a bleach solution for disinfection.
 - Use a chlorine bleach solution with a concentration of 1000-5000ppm (1:10 dilution of household bleach)
4. Do not return to work or school until 48-72 hours after symptoms resolve and practice good hand hygiene after returning.

**REMEMBER: Outbreaks are immediately reportable to your local health department!
For further questions or information contact the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology.**