

Norovirus: Recommendations for Outbreak Control

1. **WASH YOUR HANDS!** Wash hands frequently with soap and water, especially after using the bathroom or changing diapers. Alcohol-based hand gels can also be used for effective hand hygiene.
2. Infected food handlers **MUST NOT** prepare or serve food for others under any circumstances. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended that food preparation by infected individuals be restricted for a period of two weeks after symptoms cease.
3. Infected individuals should be isolated from group dining and other activities while symptomatic and for 24 to 48 hours after symptoms cease. Because the virus can shed in the stool for up to two weeks, these individuals must pay special attention to hand washing and should avoid preparing/serving food for others during this time.
4. Staff that interact (e.g. provide care, deliver meals, etc.) with sick and well patients need to wash hands thoroughly between visits and consider visiting well rooms first.
5. It is strongly recommended that symptomatic staff members be sent home and not return to work for a period of 24 to 48 hours after their symptoms cease.
6. It is recommended that signs be posted throughout the facility to alert visitors of the outbreak and their potential risk of infection. Ideally, visitations should be restricted until the outbreak is over.
7. Properly dispose of vomit and feces (stool) in a toilet. Wear a face mask if one is available to avoid inhaling and swallowing infectious aerosolized viral particles.
8. Thoroughly clean and disinfect any contaminated surfaces with a bleach-based cleaner immediately following an illness episode. See the Norovirus Cleaning Guidelines for details.
9. Remove and wash all potentially contaminated clothing and bedding with soap and hot water immediately following an illness episode.
10. Remove bowls/jars of snacks and unwrapped candy from common areas since they are easily contaminated.
11. In several instances, contaminated water has been documented as the source of a norovirus outbreak. If a shared water supply is implicated as a possible source of the outbreak, all water for drinking and for food preparation should be boiled before use.