

Control Measures for Residents

- ◆ Discontinue admissions to the outbreak-affected unit for seven days after the onset date of the last case. The seven day restriction is based on the usual duration of vomiting and diarrhea (2-days) plus the usual duration of viral shedding (3-days) plus the usual incubation period (2-days).
- ◆ Ask residents with vomiting or diarrhea to stay in their rooms until symptom-free for 72 hours.
- ◆ Discontinue group activities until the outbreak is over.
- ◆ Do not transfer residents (symptomatic or not) from outbreak-affected to unaffected units until the outbreak is over, unless it's medically urgent to do so.
- ◆ Ask family members and visitors with vomiting and/or diarrhea to stay home until symptom-free for 72 hours or more.
- ◆ Do not allow children to enter the facility until the outbreak is over.
- ◆ Dedicate the use of patient-care equipment to a single resident or among similarly symptomatic residents. If the use of common equipment or items is unavoidable, clean and disinfect the equipment before another resident uses it.
- ◆ Consider giving anti-emetics to patients with vomiting.
- ◆ Use *contact precautions* with all incontinent or diapered patients with diarrhea.
- ◆ If possible, move residents with vomiting or diarrhea to a private room or a room with a resident with the same symptoms (cohorting).

Control Measures for Staff and Volunteers

- ◆ Maintain the same staff to resident assignments (cohort nursing).
- ◆ Discontinue "floating" staff from the outbreak-affected to unaffected units.
- ◆ Furlough staff and volunteers with vomiting or diarrhea for 72 hours after symptoms cease. Virus shedding occurs an average of 48-72 hours after symptoms stop.
- ◆ Exclude non-essential personnel from outbreak-affected units.
- ◆ Wear gloves and masks and possibly a disposable gown when caring for a patient after a vomiting or diarrhea accident. Remove before leaving the room and wash hands immediately.
- ◆ Clean up vomiting and diarrhea accidents promptly and follow *Guidelines for Cleaning Up Noroviral Vomit and Diarrhea and Other Unpleasant Tasks in Nursing Homes and Similar Settings*.
- ◆ For routine cleaning during a norovirus outbreak (in areas without vomiting and diarrhea accidents) use a 1000 ppm bleach solution (1/3 cup 5.25% bleach to 1 gallon water, freshly made within 24 hours) or other disinfectants EPA-registered for noroviral disinfection.
- ◆ Do not use alcohol-based hand sanitizers - wash hands thoroughly and often.

Revised: March 2009

These guidelines were adapted from Chadwick PR, Beards G, Brown D, et al. Management of hospital outbreaks of gastroenteritis due to small round structured viruses. *J Hosp Infect* 2000;45:1-10