

Norovirus Outbreak Management

Prevention

- Keep residents well hydrated with extra drinks – this reduces the potential impact on individuals in terms of dehydration should they develop diarrhoea and /or vomiting.
- If any residents become symptomatic of diarrhoea and /or vomiting please consult their GP. If possible, the resident should have their own toilet facility and remain in their room until they have been without symptoms for 48 hours.
- If a resident needs admission to hospital by the GP, please inform the receiving hospital of symptoms.
- If residents are being admitted to hospital for reasons other than diarrhoea and/or vomiting, inform the hospital of any cases of diarrhoea and vomiting within the home in the previous week.
- Remind visitors that if they are themselves symptomatic they should remain at home until 48 hours after last symptoms.
- Encourage visitors to wash their hands on arrival to and on leaving the home.

Infection Control Precautions

- Hand hygiene is essential to preventing spread of infection during an outbreak of infection. Use soap and water as alcohol hand gels/rubs are not effective against infections when hands are dirty.
- Staff should always use personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves and aprons when providing personal care, and when cleaning up spillages of body fluid, such as, vomit or faeces. Hands must be washed with soap and water on removal of PPE.
- Establishments should ensure staff have access to sufficient supplies of PPE and have been trained in the use of PPE.
- During the outbreak you will need to increase the level of cleaning in the home. Following cleaning with detergent and water use a chlorine based disinfectant (e.g. Milton) and wipe the touch points such as handrails, taps, toilet flushes.
- Clean spills promptly.
- Ensure commodes are thoroughly disinfected between use.
- Do NOT hand sluice soiled clothing.
- There is no treatment for diarrhoea and /or vomiting however staff should ensure that residents are kept well hydrated and comfortable.

Identifying an Outbreak

- If two or more residents have unexpected, unexplained diarrhoea and/or vomiting, the home may be experiencing an outbreak.
- If you suspect an outbreak contact your local Public Health England immediately on **03442253560 option 2, option 3** or by email at westmidlandswest@phe.gov.uk
- If members of staff have symptoms they should not work and cannot return to work until they have been symptom-free for 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea and/or vomiting.
- Every attempt should be made to collect faecal samples from symptomatic residents and staff; these should be marked suspected Norovirus outbreak and sent to Virology.