

Quick Reference: GI Outbreak in Health Care Facilities

Date of Outbreak:	Outbreak Location:
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REVIEW GUIDELINES		√	Initial
For complete guidelines, see Gastrointestinal Infection (GI) Outbreak in Health Care Facilities , or on the public website Communicable Disease Control & Prevention			
CONFIRM & DECLARE OUTBREAK		√	Initial
GI Case Definition	Review charts to ensure that residents/patient meet GI infection criteria (2 or more episodes of loose/watery stools or vomiting above what is normal for the person within a 24 hour period with no other known cause).		
GI Outbreak Definition	Three or more cases of GI infection, potentially related occurring within the same setting (i.e. same unit, ward, wing) in a 4 day period		
Outbreak Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IH residential facilities call site ICP Monday to Friday work hours • Non IH residential facilities call CD Unit at 1-866-778-7736 Monday to Friday 0830-1630 • All residential facilities on weekends & holidays, call on-call MHO at 1-866-457-5648 • Acute facilities call site ICP Monday to Friday work hours; on weekends contact Medical Microbiologist on call via hospital switchboard 		
Document	Fill out the top section and Section A of the RI and GI Outbreak Report Form (check GI Outbreak box) and email to cdunit@interiorhealth.ca or fax 250-549-6310; for IH facilities, send ICP a copy as well.		
DIRECTOR OF CARE/MOST RESPONSIBLE PERSON			
Organize Outbreak Management Team (OMT) meetings daily; include ICP for IH facilities, CD Unit for non-IH facilities, WH&S, Housekeeping, Food Services and others as necessary including MHO or Med Micro (acute)			
Notify Partners – refer to GI Outbreak Guidelines pg. 8			
COLLECT AND SEND SPECIMENS – Nursing Staff			
Assign Outbreak Identification as facility, unit and year (i.e. “Cottonwoods Bridgeway 2013”).			
Complete PHSA Gastrointestinal Disease Outbreak Notification Form & fax to BCCDC. Send a copy to BCCDC with the specimens.			
Collect specimens on symptomatic cases. Fill out a PHSA Gastrointestinal Disease Outbreak Requisition for each specimen and send with specimen to the PHSA Laboratory. Put IH CD Unit (C09768) in “Copy To” field. Contact local lab regarding shipping specimens (if agreement in place) or courier direct to BCCDC.			
IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES – Nursing Staff/OMT			
DAILY UPDATES	Complete Section B of RI and GI Outbreak Report Form and email or fax to CD Unit & ICP for IH facilities every day.		
	Update GI Outbreak Surveillance Tool daily; use separate form for staff & residents. This form is for facility records only – do not send to CD Unit.		
RESIDENTS/ PATIENTS	For symptomatic residents/patients, use Droplet/Contact Precautions and serve meals in room. Encourage ill residents to stay in room until 48 hours after symptom cessation. Use dedicated toilet/commode for ill residents/patients.		
	If acute care transfer or medical appointment required, notify receiving facility & transport service.		
ENHANCED HOUSEKEEPING	Institute enhanced cleaning with 0.5% accelerated hydrogen peroxide <u>or</u> 1000 ppm bleach solution. Increase cleaning frequency of high touch areas. For areas contaminated with vomitus or feces, disinfect the area to a radius of 2 meters. Clean all equipment between residents/patients.		

COMMON AREAS	Limit or discontinue group activities.		
	Encourage hand hygiene for all residents/patients prior to meals		
	Remove all common touch items from shared areas (i.e.) salt & pepper shakers, food		
RESTRICTIONS	If wings can be separated from one another by doors and staffing is separate, then wings with ill residents should be closed, and wings with no illness can remain open.		
	Don't transfer well residents into rooms with ill residents or residents from ill wings into well wings. ICPs and CD Unit will consult with MHO regarding unit/facility closures.		
	For IH facilities, contact site ICP regarding admissions/transfers/closures Mon - Friday For Non-IH facilities, contact CD Unit regarding admissions/transfers/closures Mon – Friday After hours, on weekends & holidays, call on-call MHO at 1-866-457-5648		
STAFF	Cohort staff to either affected or unaffected areas, if possible. Otherwise, work with well residents first.		
	Staff to avoid sharing meals or leaving food items open in staff room or nursing station		
	Ill staff with GI symptoms to stay home until 48 hours after resolution of symptoms.		
VISITORS	Alert visitors of the outbreak & place signs and hand sanitizer at entrances to facility.		
	Restrict visitors to their family/friend only. Ill visitors should not visit.		
HAND HYGIENE	Encourage frequent and thorough hand hygiene by residents/patients, staff and visitors.		
WHEN OUTBREAK IS DECLARED OVER:			
Outbreak can be declared over after 96 hours have passed without any new cases occurring in facility.			
For IH facilities, contact site ICP who will declare outbreak over. For Non-IH facilities, contact CD Unit who will declare outbreak over. For Acute facilities, contact ICP who will consult with IPAC Medical Director regarding calling outbreak over			
Complete Section C of the RI and GI Outbreak Report Form and fax to the CD Unit at 1-250-549-6310 or email to cdunit@interiorhealth.ca . Send a copy to ICP for IH facilities.			