

Outbreak of Norovirus-like Illness at a Child Care Facility

Quick Reference Guide for Staff

What is an outbreak of a norovirus-like illness?

When two or more children or staff are sick within 1-2 days of each other with the abrupt onset of vomiting **and** diarrhea.



If an outbreak is suspected:

- 1** Report norovirus-like illness outbreaks to the Health Department 24/7 by calling **802-863-7240**.
- 2** Coordinate with parents to collect stool samples from 2-5 different sick people. If your facility doesn't have collection kits on hand, the Health Department will arrange getting them to you. The person collecting the sample works with the Health Department to send the stool specimen to the Health Department Laboratory.
- 3** Start a list of sick children and staff and track their symptoms.

Take action to control the outbreak*:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after providing care, changing a diaper, or having contact with a child suspected or confirmed to have norovirus.
- Separate sick children from well children until they can go home.
- Cohort staff so they are not caring for both sick children and well children.
- After someone vomits or has diarrhea, immediately clean then disinfect the area wearing rubber gloves and an apron, if available, and using a bleach solution or a solution approved by the EPA.
- Clean areas of greatest contamination and commonly touched surfaces three times a day.
- Consider sending a letter home to parents.
- Encourage children and staff who have symptoms to remain home for 24-72 hours after the symptoms have stopped.
- Children and staff who were sick shouldn't participate in water activities or swimming for one week after symptoms have stopped.

*Facility closures are generally not necessary to control an outbreak.

For more information:
healthvermont.gov/norovirus