

QUICK REFERENCE TO DETECTING & MANAGING OUTBREAKS

SUSPECT AN OUTBREAK WHEN:

RESPIRATORY

There are **two cases*** within 48 hours in **one area** (i.e., unit or floor)

OR

There is **ONE** lab confirmed case of influenza

ENTERIC

There are more cases* than normal, based on surveillance data

OUTBREAK CONFIRMED WHEN:

RESPIRATORY

There are **three cases*** within 48 hours in **one area** (i.e., unit or floor) **OR**

There are **two cases*** within 48 hours in **one area** at least **ONE** must be a lab confirmed case of influenza

***A case** is defined as a resident or staff with two or more respiratory symptoms (e.g., runny nose, cough, fever or abnormal temperature, sore throat or hoarseness, etc.) that are new or cannot be explained by other reasons (e.g., allergies)

ENTERIC

There are **two cases*** in a specific area (i.e., unit or floor) within **48 hours**

***A case** is defined as a resident or staff with two or more episodes of vomiting and/or diarrhea in a 24-hour period that cannot be explained by other reasons (e.g., laxatives)

NEXT STEPS:

1. **DON'T WAIT, ISOLATE.** Encourage ill residents to stay in their rooms. Follow routine practices in addition to:

RESPIRATORY

Contact /Droplet precautions (gowns, gloves, goggles, mask)
Continue until 5 days after the onset of symptoms or until symptoms resolved if shorter

ENTERIC

Contact precautions (gown, gloves). Droplet precautions (mask, goggles) may also be needed (splashes)
Continue until 48 hours after symptoms have resolved

2. Start an *Institutional Outbreak Line Listing*. Use a separate line list for each affected unit and one for staff.
3. Contact the Communicable Disease Control Program at the Health Unit.
After Hours/Weekends: 705-474-1400/1-800-563-2808; then press "0" for the answering service.
During Business Hours: 705-474-1400/1-800-563-2808 ext. 5229 or the CDC staff assigned to your facility.
4. Collect specimens from affected residents (sickest and/or newest onset):

RESPIRATORY

Up to four nasopharyngeal swabs may be collected during an outbreak; refrigerate and call the Health Unit

ENTERIC

Up to five stool specimens may be collected during an outbreak; refrigerate and call the Health Unit

5. Advise hospital infection control/receiving facility, EMS workers and transfer agencies of outbreak **prior to** any transfer or outpatient procedures, even if resident is not from an affected area. Transfers between LTCHs during an outbreak are not recommended.
6. New admissions and return of residents who have not been line listed are generally not recommended. If admission is necessary, consult with the Health Unit and the facility's infection control contact.
7. Symptomatic staff, students and volunteers:

RESPIRATORY

Exclude from work for 5 days after the onset of symptoms, or until symptoms resolved if shorter

ENTERIC

Exclude from work until 48 hours after symptoms have resolved

Reviewed: January 2020