

Do you have an outbreak of viral gastroenteritis?

Are there two or more people located within the same area with similar symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting within a 48 hour time period? This could either be:

- Two residents, two staff, or one of each, e.g. one resident and one staff

If the answer is **YES** then you may have an outbreak.

- **In office hours:** As soon as possible, inform the Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team.

01423 557340

- **Out of office hours:** Contact Yorkshire and the Humber Health Protection (HP) Team.

0114 304 9843

- Inform your manager.
- Inform affected resident's GP during surgery hours. Seek out of hours medical advice if the resident's condition is raising concern.

- Compile information of all residents and staff affected. This should include symptoms and dates affected, and when staff returned to work. Staff should not return to work until symptom free for 48 hours.
- Liaise with the Community IPC Team every 2 days regarding progress and notification of new cases.
- The Community IPC Team will confirm the outbreak is over.
- Outbreaks will be confirmed as over when ALL affected residents have been symptom free for 48 hours and a deep clean of affected bedrooms and all communal areas has been undertaken.

- Identify outbreaks quickly.
- Control/contain spread by implementing IPC precautions.
- Refer to the 'Viral gastroenteritis/Norovirus Policy' and/or the 'Viral gastroenteritis outbreak guidance for Care Homes Poster'.

- Obtain stool samples of diarrhoea as soon as possible.
- Samples must be liquid enough to take the shape of the pot.
- Ensure the microbiology request form states 'OUTBREAK' and the care home details.
- On the form request 'culture and sensitivity' and '**virology**' testing and write the iLog number which will be given to you by the Community IPC/HP Team.
- Ensure all boxes on the form are completed providing, as much detail as possible.
- Collection of stool samples is essential to determine if Norovirus is the cause of the outbreak.