

Facility Checklist for Norovirus

- ❑ Call Sonoma County Disease Control PHN (707) 565-4567 for outbreak guidance
- ❑ Notify your medical director
- ❑ Notify patient's family so precautions can be taken for necessary visits and unnecessary visits can be avoided.
- ❑ LTC: call DHS Licensing:(707) 576-2380/2418 FAX
OR
- ❑ Residential Care: call Community Care Licensing:(707) 588-5026/5080 FAX.
- ❑ Notify PM/Night Shift staff & student nurse instructors of recommendations for control of norovirus

Initial Tasks & Control Measures

- ❑ Request symptomatic staff, volunteers, visitors & family members stay home until symptom-free for at least 24 hours.
- ❑ Discontinue "floating" staff from the affected unit to non-affected units
- ❑ Hand washing should be with soap & water. Commercial hand gels are not effective against norovirus.
- ❑ Limit new admissions until no new cases for 48 hours
- ❑ Post ***GI Alert*** signs at all entrances (sample bilingual sign enclosed)
- ❑ Share bilingual copy of "***Disinfection of Norovirus***" with housekeeping
- ❑ Staff should be gowned, gloved and masked before cleaning up vomit and fecal spillages.
- ❑ Start ***Case Log of Residents with Acute Gastrointestinal Illness*** of ill residents/employees send daily to Disease Control PHN (707) 565-4565 confidential FAX
- ❑ If directed to do so by the Disease Control PHN: collect stool specimens from ill residents/employees in empty, sterile container and keep refrigerated. When 4-6 specimens are collected: complete ***Norovirus Outbreak Specimen Submission Lab slip*** and transport with specimens to Public Health Lab 3313 Chanate Rd. Santa Rosa, 95404. ph# (707) 565-4711
- ❑ Disease Control PHN will send a fax each weekday morning: "***Daily Norovirus Update***", please complete and return by fax daily with your GI illness log.
- ❑ Give bilingual "***Information for Health Care Workers and other Employees***" to ALL staff.

Additional Control Measures

- ❑ Notify and consider limiting vendors as able. Vendors may include food delivery, off-site linen services, barbers, and beauticians, PT, massage therapist etc.
- ❑ Isolate all ill residents, no common area dining or activities until last person ill is well for 48 hours. If isolation impossible, move residents as far apart as possible and review ventilation i.e. can windows be opened to dissipate viral particles?
- ❑ Dedicate patient care-equipment to a single resident or clean and disinfect equipment before use for another resident
- ❑ If you share staff with other facilities, staff should shower, change clothes & cleanse shoes before working in next facility.
- ❑ For ill residents, consider serving meals on disposable plates/utensils and disposed of in room rather than sending back to kitchen on cart.

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