

OUTBREAK

Enteric Outbreak Control Measures Checklist

Facility: _____ Date: _____

Date Outbreak Declared: _____ Outbreak #: _____

Health Unit Contact: _____

Infectious Disease Program intake line: 807-625-8318

IMMEDIATE CONTROL MEASURES FOR OUTBREAK

- Isolate symptomatic residents, use appropriate PPE and encourage hand hygiene.
- Notify staff of potential outbreak.
- Start [Line Listing](#) of symptomatic residents and staff, and fax separately to secure fax line: **807-625-4822**.
- Collect Stool specimens – Request Enteric Outbreak Kits from TBDHU if needed.
- Notify the Thunder Bay District Health Unit of potential outbreak by calling **807-625-8318** or after hours 807-625-1280 and ask for ID on call.

Stool Specimen Collection:

- Collect stool specimens using Enteric Outbreak Kit on up to FIVE symptomatic residents.
- Check expiry dates on kits.
- Ensure resident name, date of birth, and collection date are included on all specimen containers.
- Complete all sections of requisition – include OB Number.
- Ensure containers are closed **tightly** before placing into biohazard bag, and place requisition in outside pocket.
- Refrigerate sample, and arrange for transport to PHL within 72hrs of collection.
- Additional enteric Kits can be requested from the Health Unit.

Control Measures for Residents:

- Isolate symptomatic residents on Contact Precautions for 48-72 hours (72hrs strongly recommended) after symptoms have resolved. Based on risk assessment, droplet precautions may also be required.
- Cohort cases whenever possible – i.e. group persons with similar symptoms when single rooms not available for isolation.
- Limit movement between residents in outbreak area to non-outbreak areas. If a case must move through non-outbreak areas – institute additional precautions i.e. monitoring of hand hygiene, increase environmental cleaning.
- Do not share equipment between residents OR thoroughly clean & disinfect between use. Roommates do not share toilet facilities with symptomatic residents.

Control Measures for Staff and Volunteers:

- Emphasize the importance of strict hand hygiene.
- Provide education to staff on routine practices, additional precautions, environmental cleaning and disinfection.

- Cohort staff when able – staff working on affected unit / floor should not work in non-outbreak areas.
- Report staff illness to charge person including symptoms & onset date.
- Exclude ill staff, students and volunteers for 48 hours after symptoms have resolved.
- Some infectious agents have longer exclusion periods. Consult with Health Unit.
- Staff/volunteers who work in more than one facility should notify the facility NOT in outbreak and follow their policy regarding exclusion.
- During an outbreak, food samples may need to be submitted for testing. Retain 200g ready-to-eat food samples from each meal for the duration of the outbreak (refer to Control of Gastroenteritis Outbreaks in LTCH's for further information).

Control Measures for Visitors:

- Notification of visitors through signage at entrances and resident rooms.
- Notify all agencies contracted to work in the facility.
- Ill visitors should not be permitted in the facility.
- Encourage well visitors to reschedule their visit if possible; if necessary, instruct visitor to:
 - » Clean hands before and after visit.
 - » Use appropriate PPE for direct care of ill residents.
 - » Visit only one resident, clean hands and exit facility.

Environmental Cleaning:

- Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces.
- Ensure gown & gloves are worn when cleaning case rooms and masks when sorting linens.
- Promptly clean and disinfect surfaces contaminated by stool and vomit.
- Clean soiled carpets and soft furnishings with hot water and detergent, or steam clean – vacuum cleaning is not recommended.
- Use appropriate products for cleaning and disinfection.

Admissions, Re-admission, and Transfers:

- Admissions/transfers/return from absence decisions may be made in consultation with TBDHU and the OMT.
- Notify Hospital Infection Control Practitioner if transferring resident to hospital.

Medical Appointments:

- Re-schedule non-urgent appointments until after the outbreak is over.

Communal Activities:

- Cancel or postpone large gatherings and group outings.
- Small gatherings for well residents only, consult with Health Unit.
- Conduct on-site programs such as physiotherapy for isolated residents in their rooms if possible.