

Two residents in a specific area with the following symptoms, within 48 hours:

- Two or more episodes of vomiting within a 24 hour period

or

- Two or more episodes of diarrhea or watery stools within a 24 hour period

or

- One or more episode of vomiting AND one episode of diarrhea or watery stool within a 24 hour period

NOTE: A positive stool culture accompanied by symptoms may also indicate an outbreak

- Contact the Thunder Bay District Health Unit at **807-625-8318**
- After hours dial **807-624-1280** and ask for ID on call

Implement contact precautions (gown/gloves) for ill residents:

- Isolate ill residents
- Gown and glove upon entry to room and for direct resident care
- Mask for vomiting residents
- Perform meticulous hand hygiene, preferably with soap and water as Alcohol Based Hand Rub (ABHR) may not be effective
- Dedicate equipment where possible
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting
- Start line listing

- Obtain outbreak number from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit
- Fax line list DAILY to the Health Unit: **807-625-4822**
- Obtain stool samples from ill residents using Enteric Outbreak Kit. Once the causative organism is identified, further samples do not need to be obtained.
*If causative organism is C. Difficile, collect specimens on all symptomatic residents with the same symptoms in the same affected unit / area
- Send stool samples to Public Health Lab. Include the outbreak number on the lab requisition
- After hours specimens can be stored in the refrigerator (not freezer) and delivered to the lab the next morning

Once a confirmed outbreak has been declared, schedule initial outbreak meeting with Health Unit, and follow Outbreak Control Measures Checklist

