

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SUSPECT NOROVIRUS



ISOLATE:

- Place ill resident on Droplet Contact Precautions until COVID-19 is ruled out
- Once COVID-19 is ruled out, transition to Contact Precautions
 - Contact Precautions can be discontinued 48 hours after symptom resolution



TEST:

- Obtain stool sample for testing by Public Health Ontario Lab if meets enteric case definition
 - ⚠ Note: Ensure proper personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn as per Additional Precautions



IPAC:

- Wear proper PPE as per Additional Precautions
- Dedicate equipment for ill residents
 - If not possible, clean and disinfect shared equipment between use
- Ensure adherence to hand hygiene best practices:
 - Staff to perform hand hygiene according to the [4 Moments of Hand Hygiene](#)
 - Once Norovirus is identified, switch to traditional handwashing with soap and running water, especially after direct care
 - ⚠ Note: Ensure alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) is at least 70% at all times in preparation for enteric outbreaks
- Ensure enhanced environmental cleaning is done:
 - Increase cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces at least 2x daily
 - Use disinfectants with a DIN and a specific virucidal label claim against Norovirus
 - Bleach solution of 1000 – 5000 ppm can also be used
 - ⚠ Note: Ensure “wet time” or “contact time” is achieved



MONITOR:

- Monitor residents daily for signs and symptoms of a Norovirus infection
- Symptoms can include: Nausea, vomiting, non-bloody diarrhea and abdominal pain



REPORT:

- To report a suspected or confirmed enteric outbreak contact TPH:
 - **Weekdays** - 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM: Send email to LRCT@toronto.ca
 - **After hours** - After 4:30 PM, weekends and statutory holidays: Call 311 (or 416-392-2489) and ask to speak to the Communicable Disease Manager.

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