

**GI Illness Outbreak in a Long Term Care Facility
Kentucky Department for Public Health**

This form is to be used by local health department nurses to collect information and provide guidance in the early hours of a GI illness outbreak investigation. Please share and forward this information asap to your assigned epidemiologist.		KY -
		Today's Date:
Facility Name:	Facility Type:	
Facility Contact Person:	Facility Phone #:	
Facility City and County:	Facility Fax #:	
Outbreak Information		
Number of ill residents today:	Total number of residents:	
Number of ill staff today:	Total number of staff:	
Date index case became ill:	Index case = resident, staff, or visitor?	
Illness Characteristics		
List predominant symptoms:		
List other symptoms:		
Average duration of illness (specify hours or days):		
Number of residents admitted to a hospital:	Number of residents who have died:	
Review of Recommendations to Limit Transmission*		
1. Practice good hand hygiene. Wash hands frequently with soap and water. Alcohol-based sanitizing hand gel (\geq 62% ethanol content) may be used to complement hand washing with soap and water.		
2. Clean, then disinfect contaminated surfaces with either of the following methods: Use a chlorine bleach solution with a concentration of 1,000-5,000 ppm (1:50-1:10 dilution of household bleach) for hard, nonporous surfaces OR use disinfectants registered as effective against norovirus by the EPA. See link: http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/list_g_norovirus.pdf Persons cleaning areas heavily contaminated with vomitus or feces should wear: gown, gloves, and surgical mask . Prepare a fresh dilution of bleach every day and discard unused portions.		
3. Do not allow ill employees to return to work until 24-72 hours after symptoms have resolved and encourage good hand hygiene practices after returning.		
4. Use contact precautions for preventing the spread of gastroenteritis.		
5. Avoid sharing staff members between units or facilities with affected patients and units or facilities that are not affected.		
6. Group symptomatic patients and provide separate toilet facilities for ill and well persons.		
7. Place precaution signs for visitors at points of entry. The signs should alert visitors to the outbreak and encourage hand washing before and after visiting.		
8. Cancel or postpone group activities including dining (eat in rooms) until ill residents are no longer experiencing symptoms for 48 hours.		
9. Close to new admissions (2 incubation periods no s/s). Readmissions may be allowed to an unaffected unit.		
Please collect stool specimens for testing.		
The KY Division of Laboratory Services (DLS) will accept 7-10 specimens for norovirus testing. The Local Health Department must notify the Reportable Disease Section before sending specimens to DLS. Send enteric and C. diff specimens to a private lab for testing.		
Conduct a site visit with an environmentalist so an inspection can be done.		

*These recommendations are not required by Kentucky Law but are strongly encouraged by KY DPH.