

Gastrointestinal (GI) Outbreak Management

Long-Term Care, Designated/Non-Designated Supportive Living, Hospice

Version 1 | 09/19/2022

Manage a Confirmed Outbreak

All staff share the responsibility for keeping residents safe. The following actions should be completed once a GI outbreak has been confirmed. This checklist provides general measures only – always refer to the corresponding section in the appropriate guide for detailed recommendations. When applicable, follow site-specific protocols



[Outbreak Guide for LTC and DSL](#)
[Outbreak Guide for Non-DSL](#)

Section	Guide Section
1. Infection Prevention Control Measures	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor residents at the site to identify newly symptomatic residents that meet the GI outbreak definition as per Section 9	2.1/9.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Place signage outside the rooms of the symptomatic residents, alerting HCW/staff and visitors of precautions required.	9.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a Point of Care Risk Assessment prior to every resident interaction.	9.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Perform strict hand hygiene in accordance with AHS Hand Hygiene Policy or site policy.	9.1
2. Administrative Measures	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Notify appropriate HCW/staff/departments within the site/facility.	5.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Advise HCW/staff of relevant work recommendations and/or restrictions.	9.12
<input type="checkbox"/> Place outbreak signage at the entrance of the facility/unit.	9.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Inform residents' families/guardians/agents of the facility outbreak status.	5.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Report daily to Public Health Outbreak Team as per zone process.	9.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure adequate availability of all supplies.	5.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Assign HCW/staff to care for asymptomatic residents before symptomatic residents whenever possible.	3.12
<input type="checkbox"/> Alert transport staff and the receiving site to put in place appropriate precautions, if a symptomatic resident is attending another site for a medical appointment.	9.3
3. Resident Restrictions	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Isolate residents (until 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting and diarrhea) who develop symptoms (as per Table A) or who test positive in their room with appropriate precautions.	9.1/9.3
4. Restrictions to Admissions/ Transfers/Discharges on Affected Units/Site	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Follow Public Health Outbreak Team recommendations regarding admissions, discharges, and transfers.	9.4
5. Group/Social Activities and Other Events	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Postpone all group activities.	5.7/9.7

- Consult with Public Health Outbreak Team regarding restrictions to activities if group activities are an essential part of treatment. 9.7

6. Nourishment Areas/Sharing of Food Guide Section

- Deliver meals to symptomatic residents in their room. 9.3
- Continue group dining with single serve items and discontinue family style dining. 9.8
- Close the kitchen/nourishment areas accessed by residents/visitors. 9.8

7. Visitors and Designated Support Person(s) (DSP) Guide Section

- Follow any visitor restrictions as recommended by the Public Health Outbreak Team. 5.10
- Discourage symptomatic visitors/DSP from visiting residents. 3.10
- Advise visitors/DSP of the importance of hand hygiene. 9.10
- Advise visitors/DSP of the potential risk of exposure to a symptomatic resident and ensure the use of additional PPE. 9.10

8. HCW/Staff Outbreak Control Measures (including volunteers, students, physicians) Guide Section

- Advise HCW/staff to monitor for signs and symptoms of GI illness and to not attend work if symptomatic. 9.12
- Ask HCW/staff to report to manager/designate of any GI symptoms and to not attend work until 48 hours after last episode of vomiting and/or diarrhea. 9.2/9.12
- Advise HCW/staff who develop symptoms at work to leave the workplace as soon as possible. 3.12

9. Specimen Collection Guide Section

- Follow Public Health Outbreak Team testing recommendations for symptomatic residents. 9.13
- Ensure proper collection and handling and labelling (including EI #) on all specimens. 9.13

10. Enhanced Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Guide Section

- Follow recommendations in [Principles for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection](#). 9.14
- Clean and disinfect low touch surfaces at least once per day and high touch areas at least twice per day. 9.14
- Use a 'wipe twice' procedure (a 2-step process) to clean and then disinfect surfaces. 9.14
- Conduct a thorough enhanced cleaning when the outbreak is closed. 10

Notes: _____

