

## **Laundry Procedures for Gastrointestinal Outbreaks**

- Appropriate PPE (e.g. gowns) should be worn if there is a risk of contamination of employee clothing from body fluids or secretions
- Gloves are not needed to transport the laundry bag to the soiled laundry room.
- PPE including gloves should be removed and hands cleaned once soiled laundry has been placed in the laundry bag.
- If laundry is done in resident laundry rooms (vs. a central laundry room) dedicate one laundry room for soiled laundry from resident's sick with the outbreak illness.
- All linen that is soiled with body fluids should be handled using the same precautions regardless of the source.
- Remove gross soiling (e.g. feces) with a gloved hand and dispose into toilet. Do not remove excrement by spraying with water.
- Bag or contain soiled laundry at point of care.
- Do not sort or pre rinse soiled laundry in patient care areas
- Handle soiled laundry with minimum agitation to avoid contamination of surfaces & people. ( e.g.- roll up )
- Contain wet laundry before placing it in a laundry bag (e.g. wrap in a dry sheet or towel).
- Double bagging is not necessary & not recommended.
- Laundry bags should be tied securely & not over-filled.
- Transport, wash & dry as per routine laundering practices

Source "Guidelines for Outbreak Prevention, Control and Management in Supportive Living and Home Living Site", Alberta Health Services

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/hi-dis-flu-care-and-treat-guidelines.pdf>