

Gastrointestinal Illness Outbreak

Manage an outbreak in LTC, DSL and Hospice sites

All staff share the responsibility for keeping residents safe. Complete the following actions when a gastrointestinal outbreak is confirmed. This checklist provides general measures only – refer to the corresponding section in the [Guide for Outbreak Prevention & Control in Long Term Care, Designated Supportive Living, and Hospice Sites](#) for detailed recommendations. When applicable, follow site-specific policies.

Infection Prevention Control measures	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Isolate confirmed and symptomatic residents.	4.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement IPC recommendations in Figure 2 : <ul style="list-style-type: none">Place additional precaution signage outside room of confirmed and symptomatic residents.Wear recommended PPE.Conduct an Infection Prevention and Control Risk Assessment (IPCRA) prior to every resident interaction.Perform hand hygiene in accordance with AHS Hand Hygiene Policy.	4.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Use a mask and eye protection if there is a risk of sprays of bodily fluids or when caring for residents who are actively vomiting.	9.1
Administrative measures	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Notify appropriate HCW/staff and departments within the facility/unit.	5.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Place outbreak signage at the entrance of the facility/unit.	5.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Report daily to the AHS Public Health Outbreak Team as per zone process.	5.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Assign HCW/staff to care for asymptomatic residents before symptomatic residents.	4.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Cohort HCW/staff to work only in affected or only in unaffected areas.	4.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Inform residents, families/guardians/agents of the outbreak.	5.2

Resident restrictions	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Isolate symptomatic residents with meal service in their room for the duration of the acute illness, and until 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.	9.3
<input type="checkbox"/> Alert transport staff and the receiving site to use additional precautions if a symptomatic resident is attending another site for a medically necessary appointment.	9.3
Restrictions on affected facility/units	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement restrictions for the facility/unit as directed by the AHS Public Health Outbreak Team.	9.4 / 9.5
Group/social activities and other events	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Postpone all group activities.	9.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Consult with the AHS Public Health Outbreak Team regarding restrictions to activities if group activities are an essential part of treatment.	9.7
Nourishment areas / sharing of food	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Deliver meals to confirmed or symptomatic residents in their rooms.	9.3
<input type="checkbox"/> Continue group dining for asymptomatic residents with shared food containers/items removed.	5.8
<input type="checkbox"/> Close the kitchen/nourishment areas accessed by residents/visitors.	5.8
Visitors and Designated Family / Support Persons (DFSPs)	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Follow any visitor restrictions as recommended by the AHS Public Health Outbreak Team.	5.10
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend visitors/DFSPs limit visit to one resident only and exit the facility immediately after the visit.	5.10
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend symptomatic visitors/DFSPs delay visit.	4.10
<input type="checkbox"/> Advise visitors/DFSPs of the potential risk of exposure to a symptomatic resident and to practice hand hygiene before and after visiting.	9.10
HCW/staff outbreak control measures	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Advise symptomatic HCW/staff to report illness to manager/designate and to not attend work.	4.11

<input type="checkbox"/> Advise symptomatic HCW/staff with GI symptoms to not attend work until 48 hours after last episode of vomiting and/or diarrhea.	9.2 / 9.11
<input type="checkbox"/> Advise HCW/staff who develop symptoms at work to perform hand hygiene, inform manager/designate and leave the workplace as soon as possible.	4.11
Specimen collection	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Follow the AHS Public Health Outbreak Team specimen collection recommendations for symptomatic residents.	4.12
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure proper specimen collection, handling, and labelling (including EI#).	4.12
Enhanced environmental cleaning and disinfection	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Perform cleaning using PPE and recommended cleaning products.	9.13
<input type="checkbox"/> Follow recommendations in Principles for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection .	9.13
<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance cleaning and disinfection frequency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and disinfect low touch surfaces at least once per day and high touch areas at least twice per day. • Immediately clean and disinfect visibly dirty surfaces. 	4.13
<input type="checkbox"/> Use a 'wipe twice' procedure (a 2-step process) to clean and then disinfect surfaces.	9.13
<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a post isolation/additional precautions cleaning and disinfection when the outbreak is closed.	10