

Script for NORS: Enteric Person-to-Person Outbreaks

Welcome to the NORS training module for person-to-person outbreaks. This module assumes you have already completed the training for the general tabs contained in NORS.

This module will show you how to complete the questions in the person-to-person tab after filling in the information contained in the three General tabs. After you have selected “person-to-person” as the primary mode of transmission, click on the “Gen-Pt1” tab to save your choice. The green “P to P” tab should now appear at the top of your screen. Click the tab to continue.

As an example, we will now enter data from an outbreak of norovirus in a nursing home. Although not all of the fields are required to submit an outbreak report, we are going to show you how to enter data for all fields in this section.

First, we will select the Major Setting of Exposure. In this example report, we will select “Nursing Home” from the drop-down list.

In case the setting of the outbreak you are entering is not currently listed, you may add it to the drop-down list. Simply click “other” next to the drop-down list, type in your setting, and click “OK”. However, we will now click “cancel” since our setting is already listed.

If you need any help deciding if the setting of the outbreak you are entering belongs in one of the settings already listed, you may consult our guidance file for help. This lists the most common categories of settings and provides some detail as to what settings belong in each category.

Next, we will enter the data necessary to calculate attack rates. We have divided the ill and exposed into two groups. Group 1 is for residents, guests, passengers, patients, or anyone similar. Group 2 is for staff, crew, or anyone similar. We will now enter in example data in order to calculate attack rates. In our example nursing home, let us say that we had 370 residents and 130 staff members exposed.

Please keep in mind that if the outbreak occurred, for example, on only one wing of the nursing home, then you only need to enter the number of staff and residents actually exposed to the outbreak, not the total number of staff and residents for the entire facility if not everyone was exposed.

Now we will enter in the total number of persons ill in that major setting for each of the two groups. In this example, let us say that 30 of the residents and 15 of the staff became ill.

Now we simply click each “calculate attack rate” button in order to automatically calculate the attack rates for the residents and the staff.

In this example outbreak, it appears that our attack rate for residents was 8.1% and the attack rate for staff was 11.5%.

You may also add secondary settings of exposure for your outbreak at this point. Simply choose one or more settings as needed, or you may click “other” to enter in any settings not currently listed in the box. Our example outbreak does not have any secondary setting of exposure, so we will leave this field blank.

You have now finished entering all of the data specific to a person-to-person outbreak. Click “save” at the bottom of the screen to save your work before continuing to another tab or exiting the system.

Thank you for reviewing this module. This completes the training for the Person-to-Person section of NORS. If you need any assistance in completing these or any other sections of NORS, please refer to the online technical and guidance documents or email us at NORSadmin@cdc.gov with any questions or comments.