

# A Norovirus Outbreak Control Resource Toolkit for Healthcare Settings

**Norovirus is the most common cause** of sporadic gastroenteritis as well as gastroenteritis outbreaks. Because of high levels of contact and vulnerable patient populations, healthcare settings can be particularly susceptible to outbreaks of norovirus. To help address the challenges of managing and controlling norovirus gastroenteritis outbreaks in healthcare settings, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is offering a toolkit for healthcare professionals including up-to-date information, recommended infection control measures, and tools for outbreak response coordination and reporting.

The toolkit serves as a complementary resource to the CDC HICPAC Guideline for the Prevention and Control of Norovirus Gastroenteritis Outbreaks in Healthcare Settings, 2011 (<http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/norovirus/pubs.html>). These resources were jointly developed by CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion and Division of Viral Diseases and in consultation with infection preventionists around the country.

For healthcare professionals, the toolkit contains a variety of materials to support outbreak response as well as staff and patient education efforts including:

- ▶ A presentation on general norovirus epidemiology, infection control measures, and outbreak reporting guidance
- ▶ A norovirus fact sheet with general information and measures to limit transmission
- ▶ A poster for healthcare providers highlighting signs and symptoms of norovirus gastroenteritis and preventive infection control measures
- ▶ Key infection control recommendations based on the CDC HICPAC Guideline for the Prevention and Control of Norovirus Gastroenteritis Outbreaks in Healthcare Settings
- ▶ A sample line list for tracking and reporting norovirus cases among patients and healthcare personnel
- ▶ Sample worksheets to coordinate efforts to support
  - Laboratory confirmation of norovirus from stool (or vomitus) specimens
  - Internal and external communications for outbreak management

**We encourage you to share these materials with your colleagues to help inform them about outbreaks of norovirus in healthcare settings and the recommended strategies for prevention and control.**



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention