

Prevention and Control of Norovirus or Viral Gastroenteritis Outbreaks in Child Care Settings

Contact Public Health Seattle & King County’s Main Communicable Disease Line if your childcare has 2 or more children or staff in a facility or classroom that have had similar symptoms (diarrhea, vomiting, stomach cramps) starting within a 48-hour period. Continue strict illness control measures until 72 hours since the last sick person recovers unless you have received other guidance from PHSKC.

I. Communication		Y/N
1	Report suspect or confirmed outbreaks to Public Health 206-296-4774.	
2	Report suspect or confirmed outbreaks to Licensor WA DCYF.	
3	Inform parents and staff of outbreak Provide information on Norovirus symptoms & prevention.	
4	Post outbreak notices on all entrances. Limit nonessential visitors.	
II. Environmental Cleaning & Disinfection		Y/N
1	Perform deep cleaning of facility when children are not present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean hard, nonporous surfaces: use soapy water, rinse, and dry. • Disinfect surfaces: prepare disinfectant solution (3/4 cup of concentrated bleach to 1 gallon water), allow at least 5 minutes contact time, rinse surfaces intended for food or mouth contact. • Clean carpets and other porous surfaces: steam clean or use EPA registered Norovirus disinfectant. • Wash all affected clothing or fabric: transport laundry carefully, wash using detergent and hot water, and dry on highest heat setting. 	
2	Increase environmental cleaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least 3 times a day. • Use Norovirus disinfectant solution (3/4 cup of concentrated bleach to 1 gallon of water), 5 min contact time on all surfaces. Rinse food contact surfaces and toys. 	
3	Use personal protective equipment to clean up vomit or feces (gloves, face mask, apron or gown) and for mixing bleach solution.	
III. Control Measures		Y/N
1	Conduct health checks of children and staff upon arrival. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclude all who report diarrhea, vomiting or stomach cramps within the last 24hrs. 	
2	Follow stricter exclusion guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send children or staff home after one occurrence of vomiting or diarrhea. • Exclude ill children and staff until 48 hours after symptoms resolve. • Exclude ill food handlers for 72 hours after symptoms resolve. 	
3	Monitor illness by completing line list provided by PHSKC that includes name of child, symptoms, <u>onset date, and date when child returns to care.</u>	
4	Temporarily discontinue self-serve and family style food service. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider asking parents to provide foods from home for their own children until outbreak. 	
5	Increase frequency of handwashing for children and staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure to wash a child’s hands after diapering and toileting. • Monitor handwashing. Make sure everyone washes for 20 seconds! 	
6	Staff may use hand sanitizer in addition to handwashing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizer does NOT replace handwashing. • Handwashing with soap and water is always the best method when visible soil present. 	
7	Open windows for fresh air. Increase outdoor time.	
8	Cohort children. Keep children in their assigned rooms.	
9	Limit staff movement. Assign staff to classrooms.	
10	Cancel group play and activities until outbreak is over.	