

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTROL OF GASTROENTERITIS INFECTIONS IN DAY CARE CENTRES OR SIMILAR PREMISES FOR ADULT AND OLDER PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION

An outbreak can be defined as;

An incident in which 2 or more people experiencing a similar illness are linked in time / place. (www.hpa.org.uk)

All symptomatic cases must be notified to the Medical Officer for Environmental Health via Infectious Diseases team, on 0113 247 6286. (out of hours Tel 0845 8943884).

One faecal specimen must be collected from all symptomatic cases,(up to 10 initially) even if vomiting only. Sample containers and laboratory forms must be labelled correctly prior to submitting via individuals GP surgeries.

Display a copy of the notice on page 4 of this document in a prominent position on each entrance door to the premises.

ENSURE ALL MEMBERS OF STAFF READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS DOCUMENT.

The outbreak will be concluded after 48 hours with no new cases.

CONTAINMENT

Where possible segregate service users with symptoms. Return them to their homes promptly and exclude until they have been 48 hours symptom free.

Avoid service users being sent to other health care settings. In emergency, advise receiving hospital and transport of outbreak at premises. Service users should not, throughout the duration of the outbreak, attend other Day Care Centres.

Staff (permanent or temporary) and students must not work at or visit other establishments during the outbreak.

All symptomatic staff must be off duty until they have been symptom free for 48 hours.

Restrict visitors. Those visitors that do come must be advised of the risks. Cancel any non emergency maintenance.

Visitors should be encouraged to wash hands on entry to and exit from premises.

HYGIENE

Strict hand washing with liquid soap / drying with disposable paper towels. An alcohol hand gel should be available for use in addition to thorough hand washing with soap and water.

Avoid use of hot air hand dryers particularly during outbreaks.

Gloves and disposable aprons must be worn by all staff in contact with excreta or vomit and discarded after each episode of use.

Ensure changing beds are cleaned thoroughly between each use, hoists and slings are patient specific and are washed on a regular basis.

Colour coded mops, buckets and cloths should be used. Mops should be washed, rinsed, disinfected, stored upright to dry between use, and replaced at least weekly.

Restrict kitchen access to catering staff only.

Staff must eat and drink in designated areas only.

ENVIRONMENT

Vomit and faecal spillage must be covered and enveloped in disposable / absorbent towels, sprayed with antibacterial / disinfectant and placed into the clinical waste bag for disposal. If no clinical waste collection, double bag spillage prior to disposal. The area should then be cleansed thoroughly with hot soapy water.

After the removal of any infected material, and as part of the routine cleaning operations during to outbreak, kitchen surfaces, toilets etc should be cleaned using detergent prior to disinfection with 10,000 ppm hypochlorite solution. Do not use hypochlorite on carpets. After removal of infected material, clean carpet with hot soapy water- disinfection can be achieved with efficient steam cleaning.

Soiled personal clothing must be placed immediately in a water proof bag and sealed prior to sending home for washing with the service user.

Any soiled linen which is the responsibility of the Day Centre should not be hand washed or sluiced. It should be placed in an alginate bag and laundered on site or by a commercial laundry by arrangement throughout the duration of the outbreak.

External laundries should be informed of outbreak at premises.

Prior to flushing any toilet the lid should be closed to prevent any aerosols being generated into the environment.

PREVENTION & EDUCATION

Review all cleaning procedures.

Ensure toilets are provided with toilet paper, and hand washing facilities eg sinks with warm water, soap and drying facilities are accessible.

Display hand washing posters in areas such as toilets and kitchens.

Educate staff in personal hygiene and safe food handling precautions.

**IF YOU REQUIRE ANY
FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT LEEDS
CITY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT
OF HOUSING AND
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES- TELEPHONE 0113
2476286**

**(OUT OF HOURS TELEPHONE
0845 8943884 who will be able
to contact the duty officer)**

**WOULD ALL VISITORS
TO THE CENTRE
PLEASE REPORT TO
THE OFFICER -IN -
CHARGE BEFORE
CONTINUING WITH
THEIR VISIT**

**THANK YOU FOR ASSISTING WITH THIS
INFECTION CONTROL REQUIREMENT**