

Outbreak Management



September 2023



Image: CDC/Brian Judd, 2009

One of your staff report 3 residents with vomiting and diarrhea on one unit....

A



B



Daily Surveillance

1. Conduct Surveillance

- Conduct ongoing surveillance for infections in residents and staff and follow routine practices for infection control.
- Conduct targeted surveillance for respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms in residents and staff.
- Identify respiratory symptoms such as: runny nose/ stuffy nose, sneezing, dry cough, congestion, sore throat, hoarseness, difficulty swallowing, fever or abnormal temperature, breathing difficulty, loss of appetite, malaise, or muscle pain.
- Identify gastrointestinal symptoms: two or more episodes of diarrhea or vomiting or one or more episodes of diarrhea and one or more episodes of vomiting within a 24-hour period.

Suspect an Outbreak

2. Suspect an Outbreak

Respiratory

[Respiratory Confirmed and Suspect Case Definitions](#)

[COVID Confirmed and Suspect Case Definitions](#)

Contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) early about any suspected or confirmed outbreak.

Enteric

[Enteric Confirmed and Suspect Case Definitions](#)

Contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) early about any suspected or confirmed outbreak.

Initiate Control Measures and Report

3. Initiate Action for Outbreak Management

- Implement Infection Control Measures: Routine Practices and Additional Precautions.
- Notify SMDHU at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8809. On weekends, after hours (4:30 p.m. - 8:30 a.m. Monday to Friday) and holidays please contact the communicable disease on-call investigator at 1-888-225-7851.
- [Initiate two separate line lists, one for residents and one for staff.](#)
- Send the line listing daily to the SMDHU at 705-733-7738.
- Follow SMDHU directions to obtain specimens for laboratory testing (NP swabs for respiratory symptoms, stool samples for gastrointestinal symptoms).
- [Implement Outbreak Control Measures. Maintain daily contact with the SMDHU to review additional cases.](#)

Resources

- Case Definitions:
 - [Appendix 1 COVID-19](#)
 - [Appendix 1 Respiratory Outbreaks](#)
 - [Appendix 1 Gastroenteritis Outbreaks](#)
- Guidance Documents:
 - [COVID-19 Outbreaks](#)
 - [Respiratory Outbreaks](#)
 - [Gastroenteritis Outbreaks](#)
- Outbreak Resources:
 - [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Website](#)

Scenario A

- The Disney Unit at your facility has a respiratory outbreak, NP swabs are pending. Your facility continues to have cases every two to three days. Staff note that there are two wandering residents who are symptomatic that the staff are redirecting back to their room frequently throughout the day.
- What are some control measures and strategies that staff use when you are working with wondering residents?

Scenario B

- Mickey Mouse Retirement Home has a facility wide enteric outbreak with symptoms of vomiting and diarrhea. The outbreak is at the end of the second week with continued cases.
- What type of audits would you be completing during an enteric outbreak?

Scenario C

- The Daisy Duck unit is in outbreak. There is not enough staff to staff the evening shift and a staff member has agreed to do a double shift from another unit.
- What are some of the cohorting strategies that you have used in a situation like this?

Questions



Thank you!