

Common Nursing Home Outbreaks

(and what to do about them)

What's an outbreak?

- More cases than your baseline
- More cases than you'd expect in the given population over the given time
- Some disease-specific definitions:
 - One confirmed case of influenza in an LTCF

Outbreak investigation

- Make a line list
- Confirm your cases
 - Check each one with your case definition
- Collect more data
 - What are the symptoms?
 - Who has been in contact with the patients?
 - Where has the patient been (rooms, floors, special hospital areas)
 - Lab/microbiologic data
- Take appropriate preventive action

What's a line list?

Patient Name	Date ill	Symptoms	Resident or staff?	Gender, age
Jim Halpert	12/30/16	Nausea, diarrhea	Resident	M, 83
Dwight Schrute	12/31/16	Vomiting	Resident	M, 85
Michael Scott	1/2/16	Abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting	Resident	M, 90
Pam Beesley	1/4/16	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea	Staff	F, 82

Who to contact with an outbreak

- Call Epidemiology- we can help!
 - **269-8000**
- Management: show them your data

Influenza

- Outbreaks of flu in long-term care facilities are COMMON → have a plan!
- Standard and droplet precautions for ill residents
- Give antivirals and chemoprophylaxis to residents
- Website has resources:
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/influenza/fluininfo.aspx>



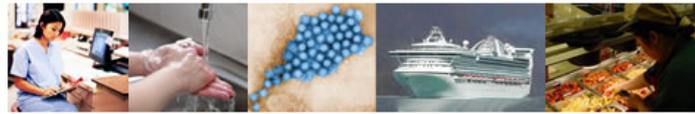
Resources for Health Care Professionals

- > **Seasonal Influenza Information** from the CDC. Topics include:
 - > [Clinical Information](#)
 - > [Diagnostic Testing](#)
 - > [Antiviral Drugs](#)
 - > [Infection Control in Health Care Facilities](#)
 - > **Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF)**
 - > [Guidance on Management of Influenza Outbreaks in LTCF](#)
 - > [Influenza Outbreak Preparation and Management](#)
 - > [Influenza Outbreak Report Form](#)
 - > [Recommended Influenza Antiviral Medications for Treatment and Chemoprophylaxis](#)
 - > [Quick Guide: Influenza Outbreak in LTCF](#)
 - > [Flu Season Sign for Staff Areas - unbranded](#)
 - > [Flu Season Sign for Visitor Areas - unbranded](#)
 - > [Employee Influenza Vaccination Tracking Form \(Sample, MS Word\)](#)
 - > [CDC Toolkit for Long-Term Care Employers](#)
 - > [Resources on norovirus or "stomach flu" - another cause of viral illness outbreaks in facilities and is sometimes confused for influenza](#)
- > **Testing available at Alaska State Public Health Laboratory - Fairbanks** (Respiratory Virus Panel test info on page 45)
 - > [ASPHL-Fairbanks Lab Test Request Form](#)
 - > [ASPHL Lab Supply Request Form](#)
- > [Epidemiology Bulletins](#) associated with Influenza from the State of Alaska
- > [State of Alaska Immunization Program](#)

Norovirus/ viral gastroenteritis

- Contact precautions; consider cohorting and cancelling group activities
- Encourage ill staff to stay home
- Resources available- many more online:
http://tn.gov/assets/entities/health/attachments/LTC_F_guidelines.pdf
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/norovirus/229110a-noroviruscontrolrecomm508a.pdf>

Norovirus



Section of Epidemiology

- [Home](#)
- [Conditions Reportable](#)
- [Epidemiology Bulletins](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Programs

- [Environmental Public Health](#)

Resources for Health Care Providers and Long-Term Care Facilities

- > [Report suspected norovirus outbreak / Request norovirus testing](#)
- > [Alaska State Virology Lab Request Form](#)
- > [CDC: Norovirus Healthcare Associated Infection Information](#) 
- > [Fact Sheet: Norovirus in Healthcare Facilities](#)
- > [Key Infection Control Recommendations](#)
- > [Acute Gastroenteritis Report Worksheet](#)
- > [EPA Registered Hospital Disinfectants Effective Against Norovirus](#)  (June 16, 2016)
- > [Epidemiology Bulletins associated with Norovirus from the State of Alaska](#)



Outbreak Prevention and Prep

- Vaccinate residents and staff!
 - Influenza
 - Chickenpox/ Shingles
- Have records of vaccination/immunity status for everyone
- Have standing orders for antivirals/antibiotics in case of an outbreak