



# Gastroenteritis or Noro-Like Illness Outbreak in Island Health

IPAC/MHO complete investigation and risk assessment:

**OUTBREAK DECLARED**

- Staff:**
- Symptomatic staff are excluded from work until symptoms resolved for at least 48 hrs.
  - Notify [PWHCC](#) if symptoms develop

- Unit Lead/Designate**
- Post **OUTBREAK** sign at door and **PRECAUTION** signage at patients\* room/bed space, directing visitors to the nursing station prior to visiting
  - Complete [GI Tracking List](#)
  - Submit updates to: ICP (Island Health) or Environmental Health Officer (EHO) (Affiliates) each morning
  - Advise symptomatic staff to contact:
    - [Provincial Workplace Health Contact Centre](#) (Island Health Staff)
    - their family physician (Affiliate staff)
  - Provide safety information to visitors, i.e., hand hygiene, correct donning/doffing of PPE as required

- Additional Precautions**
- Discuss bed closures, admissions, transfers and discharges with OMS
  - Cancel communal dining and group activities for affected patients\*/units
  - Encourage symptomatic patients\* to stay in room
  - Clinical appointments may be postponed, if necessary
  - **ICP/EHO to complete risk assessment on exposed patients** in multi-bed rooms and request additional precautions, if necessary

- Housekeeping**
- Housekeeping participates in OMS, operationalizing actions and maintaining **Precautions Plus** cleaning for affected rooms and all common areas
  - Refer to [outbreak cleaning guideline](#)

A Viral Gastroenteritis or Noro-Like Illness Outbreak will be declared over:

**Island Health Facilities:** by IPAC in collaboration with MM

**Affiliates:** by the EHO Program in collaboration with MHO

GI/NLI Outbreaks will be declared over:

- 4 days from the onset of symptoms in the most recent patient or
- 2 days after last symptoms in a staff member.

**The time can be extended but not shortened.**

**\*Patient:** the term “patient” in this document refers to patients, residents and clients in an inpatient acute or long-term care setting