

# Gastroenteritis Institutional Outbreaks Fact Sheet

Outbreaks occur when the usual incidence of disease in a Long Term Care Home or Retirement Home is exceeded at any given time.

Early identification of an outbreak is essential since the implementation of precautions and therapeutic interventions can prevent the spread of infection and decrease the morbidity and mortality of a very frail, compromised population.

Outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness in institutions are most frequently caused by viruses such as norovirus, rotavirus, astrovirus, calicivirus, enteric adenovirus, and others. However, bacteria and other pathogens may cause outbreaks as well.

The most common presentation of gastroenteritis is, but is not limited to, abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea, along with nausea, headache, chills and myalgia.

Gastroenteritis outbreaks in institutions are reportable to Public Health.

### **Other Questions?**

Talk to your health care provider or call our Communicable Disease Program at 613-966-5500 x349. Toll Free 1-800-267-2803 | TTY Dial 711 (1-800-267-6511) | [www.hpepublichealth.ca](http://www.hpepublichealth.ca)

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