

## Control Measures Checklist

- Call the Vermont Department of Health at 802-863-7240 to report suspected or confirmed outbreaks.
- Remind staff and residents about handwashing.
- Start a [line list](#) to keep track of sick staff and students or residents.
- Get a stool specimen from anyone who meets the definition. Call the Health Department to arrange delivery of stool kits. Directions and forms are available at [healthvermont.gov/norovirus](https://healthvermont.gov/norovirus).
- Immediately clean diarrhea or vomit with a cleaning substance approved by the EPA for norovirus while wearing gloves, mask and a gown.
- Review recent staff absence for acute gastrointestinal illness (GI). Symptomatic staff should not provide care, prepare food, or handle food equipment until they've been symptom free for 48 hours.

## Definition of a Norovirus Outbreak

When two or more people with a common exposure (like a school, day care or long-term care facility) are sick within 1-2 days of each other with the abrupt onset of vomiting and diarrhea (three or more loose stools in 24 hours). An outbreak is over when two incubation periods (60 hours) or five days have passed since the last person developed symptoms.

## For long-term care facilities:

- Notify your facility's Infection Control Practitioner.
- Notify your facility's medical director when an outbreak or cluster of acute GI illness is suspected.
- Cohort residents by: **symptomatic**; **exposed and asymptomatic**; and **not exposed and asymptomatic**.
- Immediately start contact precautions with ill residents and continue until they've been symptom free for 48 hours.
- Actively ask staff and residents about their symptoms to identify all ill people.
- Do not float staff between ill and well residents.
- Stop group activities and serve meals in rooms.
- Stop admitting new residents for the duration of the outbreak.
- Minimize transfers. If a transfer is necessary, notify the receiving facility of the outbreak.
- Restrict all non-essential visitors.

## After the outbreak

- Send a completed [outbreak report form](#) to [AHS.VDHFooborne@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHFooborne@vermont.gov).

## Resources

- [Responding to Outbreaks \(CDC\)](#)
- [Prevention and Control in Health Care Settings \(CDC\)](#)
- [EPA-Approved Cleaning Solutions](#)

For more information, visit  
[healthvermont.gov/norovirus](https://healthvermont.gov/norovirus)