

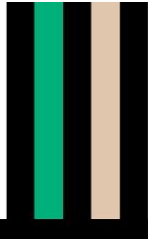


Winnebago County

Health Department

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**Health
ALERT**



Increase in Viral Acute Gastroenteritis Outbreaks February 25, 2022

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) has seen an increase in acute gastroenteritis (AGE) outbreaks in long term care/congregate care facilities compared to the same time period last year. The pathogen for the current outbreaks is Norovirus, which is extremely contagious in a congregate setting.

A case of AGE is a person (resident or staff) with diarrhea and/or vomiting.

- Diarrhea: three or more loose stools in a 24-hour period when the occurrence is not readily explained by other known pre-disposing medical factors.
- Vomiting: two or more episodes of vomiting in a 24-hour period when the occurrence is not readily explained by other known pre-disposing medical factors.

An AGE outbreak is defined as two or more cases occurring in a unit with initial dates of onset within 48 hours between cases.

An AGE outbreak should be reported to WCHD within 24 hours via the link: [Acute Gastroenteritis Outbreak Reporting Form](#).

- If the link above does not work, try copying the link below into your web browser:
<https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=NARLF8E4F7MWNMH8>

WCHD is asking long term care/congregate care facilities to enhance infection prevention controls for viral AGE.

Universal Precautions

- Wear gloves and gown
- Wear mask, eye protection or a full-face shield
- Perform hand hygiene before and after touching the resident
- Change gloves and gown after each resident

Contact Precautions

- Limit movement of resident outside their room unless medically necessary
- Recommend single occupancy rooms for residents on Contact Precautions
- Suspend group activities
- Exclude non-essential staff, students, and all volunteers from working in the affected unit(s) for the duration of the outbreak

Maintain Contact Precautions for a minimum of 48 hours after the resolution of A.G.E. symptoms to prevent further exposure of susceptible persons.

Should you have any questions, please contact the WCHD's Communicable Disease Program directly at 815-720-4050.

