

¹ During working hours, notify:

- Director of Care for your facility
- (Island Health) Infection Prevention & Control
- (Affiliate site) Island Health EHO

After hours, notify:

- (Island Health) Medical Microbiologist on Call between 0600-2200h
- (Affiliate sites) Medical Health Officer on Call : **1.800.204.6166**
- Clinical Coordinator of Operations/ Utilization manager, or Site Admin on Call (Island Health staff)

Email for IPAC: IPAC.enquiries@islandhealth.ca or your local ICP

There is more than one patient with Gastroenteritis or Noro-Like Illness (NLI) and the ICP/EHO have not yet completed an investigation and risk assessment

Initiate
ENHANCED MEASURES

Access Outbreak Playbook
(Section 2)

Surveillance

- Monitor patients for acute onset of vomiting and/or diarrhea in health care workers and patients
- Assess patient symptoms twice daily and document
- New cases: notify the IPAC/EHO program immediately
- Obtain a **stool or emesis** specimen in a dry C&S container from each new symptomatic case

Additional Precautions

- Droplet and contact precautions for patients with symptoms (PCRA)²
- Encourage symptomatic patients to stay in room and avoid group activities
- Meals must be served to these residents in their rooms
- Patient admissions, transfers, and movement are not restricted

Housekeeping

- Notify housekeeping of all patients on additional precautions
- Additional (Precaution Plus) cleaning will be ordered by ICP for rooms of patients on additional precautions and for common areas
- Refrigerators and food prep areas should be cleaned and disinfected

Unit Lead/Designate

- Refer symptomatic staff to:
 - Island Health Staff: [Provincial Workplace Health Contact Centre](#)
 - Affiliate staff: Their family physician
- Continue to be vigilant for acute onset of vomiting and/or diarrhea in staff and patients.

IPAC/MM or EHO/MHO complete investigation and risk assessment:

Is an Outbreak Declaration required?

≥3 patients with Gastroenteritis or Noro-Like Illness (NLI)
Not attributed to non-infectious causes¹
Occurring within a 4-day period
Epidemiologically-linked (e.g., by room/floor/common area/staff assignment)

YES

Declare Outbreak

(see VRI-3: Outbreak algorithm)

NO

Continue Enhanced Measures

² Maintain droplet and contact precautions until the patient is free of vomiting and/or diarrhea for at least 48 hours.

Symptom recurrence is common within 24-48 hours of initial GI symptom resolution. This is not a reinfection or new case.