



# Suspected Gastroenteritis or Noro-Like Illness (NLI) All Health Facilities

GI-1  
12 December 2024

Patient\* has sudden onset of vomiting and/or diarrhea not explained by other causes<sup>1</sup>

**Droplet & Contact Precautions**

- Place symptomatic patient on droplet & contact precautions
- Post precautions signs**
- Advise your Charge Nurse & the patient's MRP

Conduct a risk assessment for exposures<sup>2</sup>: roommates in multibed rooms should be considered exposed

**Bed Placement**

For symptomatic and exposed patients:

- Encourage to remain in room and serve meals in patient room
- Can be transferred to another unit on droplet and contact precautions – the receiving unit must be aware of the need for additional precautions

**Housekeeping**

Ensure Additional Precautions signage is posted so that housekeeping are aware of the need for **Precaution Plus** cleaning for affected rooms

**Unit Lead/Designate**

- Ensure **stool or emesis** specimen is collected in a dry C&S container and sent to the lab
- Notify Charge Nurse
- Continue to be vigilant for acute onset of vomiting and/or diarrhea in staff and residents/patients

**Are you aware of ≥3 patients:**  
With GI/Norovirus-Like Illness symptoms  
Occurring within 4 days  
Epidemiologically-linked (e.g., by room/  
floor/common area/staff assignment)?

If during working hours, notify:

- Director of Care for your facility
- Island Health EHO (Affiliate site) or IPAC (Island Health)

If after hours, notify:

**Affiliate Sites:** Medical Health Officer on Call **1.800.204.6166**  
**Island Health:** Clinical Coordinator/Utilization manager, or Site Admin on Call  
Message for IPAC: [IPAC.enquiries@islandhealth.ca](mailto:IPAC.enquiries@islandhealth.ca)  
Medical Microbiologist on Call (Island Health) between 0600-2200h

**GI-2 Algorithm:**  
Outbreak Declared

\***Patient:** the term “patient” in this document refers to patients, residents and clients in an inpatient acute or long-term care setting  
<sup>1</sup>Non-infectious reasons for acute nausea and vomiting include drug therapies with GI side effects (e.g., laxatives), pregnancy, migraine headache, and GI conditions such as appendicitis, gallstones, and constipation  
<sup>2</sup>**Exposed:** Roommates. Anyone who has had contact with infectious body fluids or contaminated materials, e.g., bedpan, food handled by the symptomatic case