

## Communication handover checklist - viral gastroenteritis

✓ DO...	✗ DO NOT...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Inform the Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC). Out-of-hours inform Yorkshire and the Humber Health Protection (HP) Team of a suspected outbreak.</li> <li>✓ Inform visitors of the outbreak and advise against visiting.</li> <li>✓ Wear disposable apron and gloves when entering an affected resident's room. Before leaving the resident's room, remove and dispose of gloves, wash hand, remove and dispose of apron, wash hands. Hands should be washed with liquid soap and warm running water.</li> <li>✓ Encourage hand washing and ensure all staff, residents and visitors carry out good hand washing with liquid soap and warm running water.</li> <li>✓ Remember, alcohol handrub is <b>not</b> effective against viral gastroenteritis.</li> <li>✓ Care for affected residents in their room until they are symptom free for 48 hours.</li> <li>✓ Encourage and assist residents with hand washing after using the toilet or commode and before meals. Non-alcohol skin wipes should be provided for residents who have difficulty washing hands.</li> <li>✓ Document details of all affected residents and staff on the appropriate 'Viral gastroenteritis outbreak Record'.</li> <li>✓ Submit a stool specimen from affected residents for culture and virology testing. The iLog number provided by the Community IPC or Yorkshire and the Humber HP Team should be written on the request form.</li> <li>✓ Postpone investigations/treatments requiring visits to hospital or healthcare premise unless urgent medical attention is required, in which case the transferring ambulance service and receiving department must be informed.</li> <li>✓ Dispose of potentially contaminated consumables, e.g. open boxes of chocolates, fruit, biscuits, from an affected resident's room.</li> <li>✓ Send staff ill at work home immediately. Affected staff should submit a stool specimen and be excluded from work until 48 hours symptom free.</li> <li>✓ Place linen from affected residents into a red water soluble (alginate) bag and then into an outer bag labelled infectious.</li> <li>✓ Ensure commonly touched surfaces, e.g. toilet flush handles, door knobs, hand rails, are cleaned at least twice daily with a chlorine-based disinfectant solution, e.g. Milton 2% at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million (50 mls of Milton in 1 litre of water).</li> <li>✓ Clean commodes after each use with a chlorine-based disinfectant solution as above.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ <b>Do not</b> accept new admissions until the outbreak is declared over.</li> <li>✗ <b>Do not</b> transfer residents to hospital or other healthcare premise unless urgent medical attention is required, in which case the transferring ambulance service and receiving unit must be informed of the outbreak.</li> <li>✗ <b>Do not</b> use alcohol handrub as it is not effective against viral gastroenteritis. Hands should be washed with liquid soap and warm running water.</li> <li>✗ <b>Do not</b> work in any other health or social care setting within 48 hours of working in the 'closed' care home. This is to reduce the risk of spreading the outbreak.</li> <li>✗ <b>Do not</b> allow non-essential services to visit until the outbreak has been declared over, e.g. hairdresser, volunteers.</li> <li>✗ <b>Do not</b> come to work if you have had diarrhoea and/or vomiting within the past 48 hours.</li> <li>✗ <b>Do not</b> allow visitors with symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting to visit until they have been symptom free for 48 hours.</li> <li>✗ <b>Do not</b> vacuum carpets during the outbreak until the deep cleaning commences.</li> <li>✗ <b>Do not</b> use cleaning products other than a chlorine-based disinfectant solution, e.g. Milton 2%, as they may be ineffective.</li> <li>✗ <b>Do not</b> use a chlorine-based disinfectant solution unless it has been freshly made within the last 24 hours.</li> </ul> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed red;"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ <b>Do not</b> prevent other healthcare professionals, e.g. community nurses, from visiting residents. There should be hand washing facilities available for their use.</li> </ul>