APPENDIX A

Is this a G.I. Outbreak?

A patient develops diarrhea and/or vomiting.

Is an infectious agent possible? (e.g. have not had laxatives or enema within 48 hours)

Yes →
Start Droplet/Contact Precautions on patient who has diarrhea and/or vomiting

Yes →
Does anyone else have diarrhea or vomiting? (patient or staff)

Yes →
Do three or more people have GI symptoms? (patients or staff)
  • Vomiting (2 episodes within 24 hours) or
  • Diarrhea (2 episodes within 24 hours) or
  • Vomiting and diarrhea (1 episode of each within 24 hours)
  • OR Do 2 people have blood in their stools?

CALL Infection Prevention & Control

Yes →
Likely to be a G.I. outbreak
  • Droplet/Contact precautions for all symptomatic pts
  • Send symptomatic staff home
  • Send stool samples and begin control measures with help of IP&C
  • Start G.I Patient and Staff Line Listing for all symptomatic cases (Appendix B&C)

No →
Less likely to be GI Outbreak
Consider other causes of diarrhea — antibiotics, laxatives, constipation, food related (e.g. sensitivities)

Isolate patients
Use contact precautions
Still send stool samples

Call your IPC if you are concerned or if the situation changes.

No →
Not an Outbreak (yet)
  • Continue to observe patients or staff for development of symptoms

No →
Isolate symptomatic patients in a single room to reduce the risk of cross contamination

An outbreak can only be declared by Infection Prevention and Control in collaboration with Public Health

Yes →
Start Droplet/Contact Precautions on patient who has diarrhea and/or vomiting