Confirmed & Suspect Outbreak Definitions

Respiratory

Respiratory Illness Definition - Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as:
For Residents:
• Acute onset of respiratory illness with cough (fever may or may not be present) and with one or more of the following: sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia or prostration – which could be due to influenza virus.
For Staff:
• Acute onset of respiratory illness with cough and fever and with one or more of the following: sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia or prostration – which could be due to influenza virus.

Suspect Respiratory Outbreak Definition:
• Two (2) cases of infectious respiratory illness in residents or staff in one geographic area (ie. unit/floor/facility) within a 72 hour period.

Confirmed Respiratory Outbreak Definition:
• Three (3) or more cases of influenza-like illness in residents or staff in one geographic area (i.e. unit/floor/facility) within a 24 hour period
  OR
• Two (2) or more cases of influenza-like illness within a seven (7) day period, including at least one laboratory confirmed case of influenza.

Gastrointestinal

Gastrointestinal (GI) Illness Definition - Gastrointestinal illness is defined as:
a. Two or more episodes of loose watery stool, above what is considered normal for the resident/client/staff, in a 24 hour period, or
b. Two episodes of vomiting in a 24-hour period,
c. One episode of vomiting and one episode of loose watery stool in a 24-hour period, or
d. One episode of bloody diarrhea in a 24-hour period, or
e. One episode of explosive diarrhea in a 24-hour period.

Suspect Gastrointestinal Outbreak Definition:
• Two (2) cases of GI illness\(^1\) in residents or staff in one geographic area (ie. unit/floor/facility) within a 24 hour period.

Confirmed Gastrointestinal Outbreak Definitions
• Three (3) or more cases of GI Illness\(^1\) in residents/staff in one geographic area (ie. unit/floor/facility) within a 24 hour period.

\(^1\) For which no other cause can be found for the symptoms (ie. medication reaction, food intolerance, bleeding hemorrhoids, laxative administration, etc.)

The Medical Health Officer (MHO) or designate (Communicable Disease Nurse or LTC - Infection Control Practitioner) will determine whether illness within a facility constitutes an outbreak to be declared.