



COVID-19

COVID-19 Illness Definition- COVID-19-like-illness may include:

Fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, hoarse voice, nasal or sinus congestion, headache, runny nose, joint pain, or loss of sense of taste or smell. Atypical symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, increased fatigue or lethargy, muscle aches, chills, malaise, or an acute functional decline.

COVID-19 Watch

One or more residents or staff with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 within any 14 day period OR one or more visitors with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 who likely acquired or transmitted infection while in facility.

Suspect COVID-19 Outbreak Definition

One individual with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 who may have acquired or transmitted SARS-CoV-2 in a non-household setting will trigger a public health investigation to determine whether an outbreak exists.

Confirmed COVID-19 Outbreak Definition

Two or more individuals with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 for whom the Medical Health Officer has determined that transmission likely occurred within a common non-household setting will confirm that an outbreak exists.

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. **OR**
- One (1) laboratory confirmed influenza case in a resident (and no other influenza-like-illness cases in a 7 day 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 illness¹ 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 Illness¹ 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.