

Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Reportable Diseases

Disease: Gastroenteritis, institutional outbreaks

Gastroenteritis, institutional outbreaks

1.0 Provincial Reporting

Confirmed outbreaks

2.0 Type of Surveillance

Outbreak summary data

3.0 Outbreak Classification

3.1 Confirmed Outbreak Definition (See Note in Section 7.0 for further details)

- Three or more cases* with signs and symptoms compatible with infectious gastroenteritis in a specific unit or floor within a four-day period
- OR**
- Three or more units/floors having a case of infectious gastroenteritis within 48 hours

4.0 Laboratory Evidence

4.1 Laboratory Confirmation

- Confirmation of an outbreak of Gastroenteritis is not dependant on laboratory confirmation.

4.2 Approved/Validated Tests

- Given the variability of etiological organisms, consult with laboratory about appropriate testing methodologies

4.3 Indications and Limitations

- N/A

5.0 Clinical Evidence

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms depend upon etiologic agent and may include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or tenderness

6.0 ICD Code(s)

ICD 10 Code A09A

7.0 Comments

Note:

- It is recognized that the confirmed outbreak definition (Section 3.1) may be overly sensitive. A Gastroenteritis institutional outbreak should therefore be declared by the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) or designate, or by the outbreak management team of the institution.
- If an outbreak is declared by the MOH or designate, or the outbreak management team of the institution, then that outbreak is reportable.

* To be defined as a case within a gastroenteritis outbreak, **at least one** of the following must be met:

- Two or more episodes of loose/watery bowel movements (conforms to the shape of the container) within a 24-hour period, or **two or more** episodes of vomiting within a 24-hour period
OR
- One episode of loose/watery bowel movements (conforms to the shape of the container) and one episode of vomiting within a 24-hour period
OR
- Laboratory confirmation of a known gastrointestinal pathogen **and** at least one symptom compatible with gastrointestinal infection – nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or tenderness.

All Gastroenteritis outbreaks in institutions are reportable regardless of whether they are caused by:

- A reportable agent
- A non-reportable agent
- An unknown cause

Note: Once a reportable agent (e.g., *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, *CDAD*) is confirmed, cases should then be reported under its respective disease.

8.0 References

- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Division. iPHIS manual. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2005.
- Heymann D, editor. Control of communicable diseases manual. 18th ed. Washington: American Public Health Association; 2004.

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