



社會福利署

Social Welfare Department

Our Ref. : LODTC 2/100/01  
Tel. No. : 2116 3590  
Fax No. : 2119 9057

22 December 2008

To: Specified Operators of Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres


**Be Vigilant against Norovirus Gastroenteritis**

I would like to enclose the English and Chinese versions of the above letter issued by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health for your reference, please.

If you notice an increase in the number of residents or staff with symptoms of viral gastroenteritis or other infectious diseases, please inform the Central Notification Office of CHP as early as possible by fax at 2477 2770 or by phone at 2477 2772, so that investigation and intervention can be initiated as soon as possible.

For any enquiries, please contact social worker of the Licensing Office of Drug Dependents Treatment Centres on 2116 3592.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Miss Hui Kwai-fan)  
for Director of Social Welfare

Encl.

c.c. Business Director (Service Development), HKCSS  
SEO(Narcotics)2, Narcotics Division  
Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease), CHP, Department of Health } by fax

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (72) in DH/SEB/CD/8/39/1

來函檔號 Your Ref :

電話 Tel. :

傳真 Fax No. : 2711 4847

19 Dec 2008

Dear Operators/ Managers/Infection control officers of residential care homes,

**Be vigilant against norovirus gastroenteritis**

I would like to inform you that recently we have recorded an increase activity of viral gastroenteritis.

The Centre for Health Protection received a total of 15 acute gastroenteritis outbreaks occurring in institutions in the past two weeks, compared with zero to two outbreaks per week in the preceding four weeks. Among these 15 outbreaks, five of them were confirmed to be associated with norovirus. Besides, a recent rise in acute diarrhoeal disease activity is also noticed in the sentinel surveillance system based at general practitioners. The latest consultation rate for acute diarrhoeal disease is 35.0 cases per 1000 consultations, compared with 19.8 to 27.7 in the preceding 4 weeks.

Viral gastroenteritis, commonly caused by noroviruses, is a frequent cause of outbreaks in institutions. Norovirus infection is usually mild and self-limiting yet they may result in outbreaks that are difficult to control. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, fever and malaise. The infection can spread through the consumption of contaminated food or direct contact with the vomitus or excreta of infected persons. Norovirus outbreaks may occur throughout the year but are known to occur more frequently in winter months (December to February).

To prevent outbreaks of acute gastroenteritis, strict personal, food and environmental hygiene with particular attention to handling of vomitus and faecal matter are very important. I would recommend you taking the following steps:

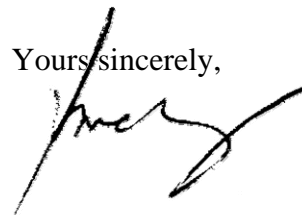
1. Remind residents and staff to maintain personal hygiene practices especially proper hand-washing using liquid soap before meals and after going to toilet.



2. Remind residents and staff and their family to maintain proper food hygiene. Ensure all food is adequately cooked especially high risk food like shellfish.
3. Train staff on the proper management and disinfection of the environment after vomiting incidents:
  - Keep residents away from the area during the cleaning process;
  - Wear gloves and mask while cleaning the vomitus;
  - Use disposable towels (do not use floor mops) to wipe away all the vomitus from outside inward, before applying diluted bleach 1:49 to the surface and neighbouring area (say within two metres of the vomitus);
  - Leave for about 15 to 30 minutes to allow the bleach to inactivate viruses in the vomitus before rinsing the surface with water, and then leave it until dry;
  - Wash hands thoroughly afterwards;
  - Maintain good indoor ventilation.
4. Advise staff developing vomiting or diarrhoea to refrain from work and seek medical advice.

The “*Guideline on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly*” and “*Guideline on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Day Care Centre/ Home Care Services/ Home-based Training and Support Service for the Elderly and Disabled Persons*” contain practical information and control measures on prevention of communicable diseases and are available at <http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/grp-elderly-tc-20070917.pdf> and [http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/grp-CSS\\_Guideline-tc-2004052100.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/grp-CSS_Guideline-tc-2004052100.pdf) respectively. If you notice an increase in number of residents or staff with symptoms of viral gastroenteritis, other infectious diseases or absentees, please inform the Central Notification Office of CHP as early as possible at Fax: 2477 2770 or Tel: 2477 2772 so that investigation and intervention can be initiated as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr SK CHUANG)

Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease)  
Surveillance and Epidemiology Branch  
Centre for Health Protection

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (72) in DH/SEB/CD/8/39/1  
來函檔號 Your Ref :  
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傳真 Fax No. : 2711 4847

各院舍、宿舍主管 / 感染控制主任：

### 提高警覺 預防諾如病毒腸胃炎

本人特致函通知閣下本港近日的病毒性腸胃炎呈上升趨勢。

衛生防護中心於過去兩星期共錄得十五宗於院舍爆發的急性腸胃炎個案，較過去四星期每週零至二宗為高；在這十五個爆發個案中，五宗個案已確定與諾如病毒(前稱諾沃克病毒)有關。此外，私家醫生定點監測計劃的數據亦顯示急性腸道傳染病近期有上升趨勢，最新的求診比率為每1 000個診症中有35.0宗急性腸道傳染病個案，較過去四星期每週求診比率的19.8至27.7為高。

病毒性腸胃炎多由諾如病毒引起，是一種經常導致院舍出現爆發的疾病。雖然諾如病毒一般只引致較輕微的腸胃炎及可自我痊癒，但亦可引致難於控制的爆發。諾如病毒感染的徵狀包括惡心、嘔吐、腹瀉、腹痛、發燒及疲倦。此類感染可以由進食受病毒污染的食物及直接接觸病人的嘔吐物或糞便而傳播。諾如病毒爆發個案全年都會發生，但較常見於冬季月份（十二月至二月）。

要預防病毒性腸胃炎在院舍內爆發，應加緊注重個人、食物及環境衛生，特別要小心處理嘔吐物及糞便。現請各位注意以下數項：

1. 提醒院友及員工個人衛生原則，尤其是進食前及如廁後應用梘液徹底清潔雙手。
2. 提醒院友、員工及其家人保持衛生。確保所有食物尤其是貝殼類海產應徹底煮熟。
3. 教導員工正確處理嘔吐物的方法及程序：
  - ◆ 清潔程序進行中，勿讓院友走近範圍；
  - ◆ 處理嘔吐物時，應戴上手套及口罩；
  - ◆ 以用完即棄的抹巾由外至內的把嘔吐物清理，然後用稀釋家用漂白水(1：49) 消毒受污染物件表面及附近約兩米的範圍（切勿用地拖拭擦）；



- ◆ 留待三十分鐘後才用清水徹底洗淨，以讓漂白水有足夠時間發揮消毒作用；
  - ◆ 徹底洗淨雙手；
  - ◆ 保持室內空氣流通。
4. 員工如出現嘔吐或腹瀉的徵狀，應停止上班，並應看醫生。

由於傳染病容易在日間中心及院舍內發生，我們現請各位注意預防傳染病。「安老院舍預防傳染病指引」及「長者及殘疾人士日間中心服務、家居照顧服務、家居訓練及支援服務預防傳染病指引」載有關於預防傳染病控制措施的資訊，可在以下網站瀏覽（網址為 <http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/grp-elderly-tc-20070917.pdf> 及 [http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/grp-CSS\\_Guideline-tc-2004052100.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/grp-CSS_Guideline-tc-2004052100.pdf)）。如察覺出現病毒性胃腸炎徵狀或其他傳染病的院友/員工人數增加，請盡早通知衛生防護中心（傳真號碼：24772770，電話號碼：2477 2772），使調查及控制措施能及早進行。

衛生防護中心  
監測及流行病學處  
社會醫學顧問醫生(傳染病)

(張竹君醫生



二零零八年十二月十九日