



社會福利署

Social Welfare Department

Our Ref. : LODTC 2/100/01

Tel. No. : 2116 3591

Fax No. : 2119 9057

30 December 2008

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

### Update on Viral Gastroenteritis Associated with Rotavirus and Norovirus

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,

(Tang Kit-keung)  
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. : ( 10 ) in DH/SEB/CD/8/19/1

來函檔號 Your Ref :

電話 Tel. :

傳真 Fax No. : 2711 4847

29 Dec 2008

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

**Update on viral gastroenteritis associated with rotavirus and norovirus**

Further to our letter on 19 December 2008, I would like to provide you update on the activity of viral gastroenteritis including rotavirus and norovirus.

So far in December, CHP has received 21 institutional outbreaks of acute gastroenteritis, compared with 6 outbreaks in the November and 4 outbreaks in October. These 21 outbreaks reported in December involved 11 child care institutions, 7 elderly homes, two residential homes for the disabled and one primary school. Among the 21 outbreaks, 7 outbreaks affecting a total of 62 persons, were confirmed to be associated with norovirus, while one outbreak affecting 5 persons was associated with rotavirus which occurred in a child care institution. The latest consultation rates for acute diarrhoeal disease as recorded by sentinel surveillance system based at general practitioners were 33.0 and 35.0 cases per 1000 consultations in week 51 (week ending on December 20) and week 50 (week ending on December 13) respectively, compared with 19.8 to 27.7 in the preceding 4 weeks.

Acute gastroenteritis caused by rotavirus and norovirus can be found in Hong Kong all year round but is more active in the winter months. These infections usually peak from December through February of the next year. They are also common causes for acute gastroenteritis outbreaks in institutions such as schools, kindergartens and child care centres.

Rotavirus infection is characterized by vomiting, and watery diarrhoea for a few days. Fever and abdominal pain are also frequently reported. For healthy persons, rotavirus gastroenteritis is a self-limited illness. However, it is occasionally associated with severe dehydration in young children. Immunity after infection is incomplete, but re-infections tend to be less severe than the original infection.

Symptoms of norovirus infection include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, fever and malaise. Although norovirus infection is usually mild and self-limiting, they are highly infectious and may results in outbreaks that are difficult to control. The infection can spread through direct contact with the vomitus or excreta of infected persons.

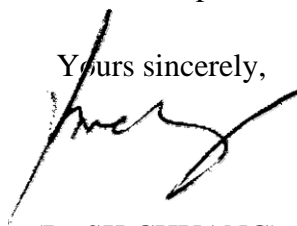


To prevent outbreaks of acute gastroenteritis, strict personal, food and environmental hygiene with particular attention to handling of vomitus and faecal matter are very important. I would recommend you taking the following steps:

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

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各院舍、宿舍主管 / 感染控制主任：

### 提高警覺 預防輪狀病毒及諾如病毒腸胃炎

據上次於2008年12月19日致函後，本人再次通知閣下本港輪狀病毒及諾如病毒(前稱諾沃克病毒)腸胃炎的最新情況。

衛生防護中心本月至今共接獲21宗急性腸胃炎的院舍爆發個案，較11月份6宗及10月份4宗為高。此21宗在12月份錄得的爆發涉及11宗幼兒院舍、7宗安老院舍、兩宗殘疾人士院舍以及1間小學。在這21宗爆發個案當中，7宗共涉及62人已確定和諾如病毒有關，而1宗影響5人的幼兒院舍爆發則與輪狀病毒有關。私家醫生定點監測計劃在第51週及50週的最新求診比率為每 1000個診症中有33.0宗及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。

輪狀病毒及諾如病毒引致的急性腸胃炎個案全年都會發生，但較常見於冬季月份，高峰期多發生在12月至翌年2月。它們亦是學校、幼稚園及幼兒院等院舍爆發急性腸胃炎的常見原因。

輪狀病毒感染的症狀以嘔吐及水狀腹瀉為主，情況一般持續數日，並常伴有發燒及腹痛等症狀。身體健康的人患上輪狀病毒腸胃炎，病徵一般會自行消退，但幼童偶然會出現嚴重脫水的情況。病癒後並非終生免疫，但再次感染的病情往往較初次感染的輕微。

諾如病毒感染的徵狀包括惡心、嘔吐、腹瀉、腹痛、發燒及疲倦。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。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。



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 )

二零零八年十二月二十九日