Viral Gastroenteritis Outbreak Control Checklist – Residential & Healthcare Facility

Facility Name: ________________________________ Date: __________________
Contact Person: _____________________________ Phone: _______________________
Fax: _____________________________ E-mail: ________________________________

The following recommendations and reporting requirements are being provided to you to assist in the control of the current outbreak at your facility. Please review these basic guidelines with key staff members. We are requesting that you return a signed and dated copy of this form to Communicable Disease Programs, Disease Investigation & Control Section. Please check the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) website at: http://www.cdph.ca.gov/pubsforms/Guidelines/Documents/PCofViralGastroenteritisOutbreaks.pdf for state guidelines. You may request a faxed copy of the comprehensive guidance from the Disease Investigation & Control Section at (925)313-6740.

- Post a sign on entrance for visitors stating your facility is experiencing a gastroenteritis outbreak and advising visitors to wash hands with soap and water when they arrive and leave. A sample sign is attached. Designate a restroom where visitors can wash their hands.

- Request symptomatic visitors and volunteers to stay home until symptom-free for at least 48 hours or to avoid visitation. Symptoms include fever, nausea with or without vomiting, and diarrhea.

- Discourage visits to symptomatic residents. If visitation is necessary, instruct visitors on hand hygiene and use of gowns and gloves (masks if resident is vomiting).

- Advise your Medical Director and/or corporate headquarters of the outbreak.

- Depending upon your facility licensure, notify the State Department of Health Services Licensing and Certification or the State Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing.

- Minimize movement of residents. Asymptomatic exposed residents should not be moved from an affected to an unaffected nursing unit.

- Confine symptomatic residents to their rooms until 72 hours after symptoms cease. Exclude non-essential staff from entering the room and encourage hand washing with soap and water.

- If vomiting is the predominant symptom, contact the resident’s personal physician or the facility Medical Director to prescribe an anti-emetic.

- Cancel or postpone all group activities until at least 72 hours after the last identified case.

- Discontinue community dining. Avoid serving meals to visitors.

- Limit new admissions until there are no new cases for at least 72 hours. If new admissions are necessary, admit resident to an unaffected unit or to a unit that has had no new cases for at least 72 hours.
Gastroenteritis Outbreak Control Checklist

Updated 04/2013

Public Health
Communicable Disease Programs

- Do not transfer patients out of your facility unless a higher level of care is needed. If transfer to a higher level of care occurs, notify receiving facility of your outbreak.

- If water handwashing not available for residents before meals, assist residents with use of alcohol-based hand gels. (Soap and water is the preferred method)

**Public Health Reporting Requirements**

- Fax daily log of new cases, both residents and staff, to Public Health (925) 313-6465. *(See sample case log form provided.)* Include the name, age, onset date of symptoms, symptoms experienced by the individual, e.g. nausea, vomiting, fever, diarrhea, body aches.

- Collect stool samples from at least 2 symptomatic residents and 1 symptomatic staff member. Public Health will provide appropriate specimen containers, lab slips, courier service and testing at no charge.

**Staff and Housekeeping Measures**

- Ill employees should be off work until symptom free for at least 48 hours. Virus may be excreted in stool for 2 or more weeks. Therefore, the need for good hand hygiene should be stressed.

- Maintain the same staff to resident assignments. Discontinue “floating” staff from the affected unit to unaffected units if possible.

- Clean and disinfect vomit and fecal spillages promptly. Environmental services personnel should wear a gown, gloves and surgical or procedure mask when cleaning surfaces soiled with vomitus or fecal material.

- Staff should wear gown, gloves and a surgical or procedure mask when in contact with a symptomatic resident and perform hand hygiene using soap and water immediately after removing gown and gloves.

- Clean carpets and soft furnishings with hot water and detergent or steam- clean when soiled. Dry vacuuming is not recommended in these instances.

- Other common surfaces should be cleaned once every shift or as needed with a commercial disinfectant or a 1:10 bleach solution, (e.g. doorknobs, phones, table tops, counter tops, handrails, bed rails, etc).

I have read and reviewed these recommendations and had the opportunity to ask questions. I have received a copy of these recommendations and the California DHS Recommendations for the Prevention and Control of Viral Gastroenteritis Outbreaks in California Long-Term Care Facilities.

__________________________________   Date: ________________________

*(Signature of Facility Representative)*

CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SERVICES