

Stand Alone Assisted Living Viral Gastrointestinal (VGI) Toolkit

*This toolkit provides guidance related to viral gastrointestinal illness (e.g., Norovirus, Rotavirus, Adenovirus).

**Outbreaks are not called for stand-alone Assisted Living sites.

Residents identified with new symptoms consistent with Viral GI		
Identify residents with other reasons for loose stool (i.e., loose stool as their baseline, recent laxative use or antibiotics in the last 3 days)		
GI Case definition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 or more episodes of diarrhea (Bristol stool chart 6 or 7) within a 24-hr. period, above what is considered normal for that individual (and not related to bowel stimulants) OR 2 or more episodes of vomiting within a 24-hr. period, OR 1 episode each of vomiting and diarrhea within a 24-hr. period, OR 1 episode of bloody diarrhea, OR lab confirmation of a known enteric pathogen with at least one symptom compatible with a GI infection (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pains, bloody stools or tenderness) 		
Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care staff to notify nurse in charge 	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurse to notify manager or designate for evenings and weekends. Initiate a paper line list </td> <td> Site leader: _____ Contact: _____ Email questions to ICP-LTC@vch.ca </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurse to notify manager or designate for evenings and weekends. Initiate a paper line list
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurse to notify manager or designate for evenings and weekends. Initiate a paper line list 	Site leader: _____ Contact: _____ Email questions to ICP-LTC@vch.ca	
Additional Precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place symptomatic residents on Contact Plus Precautions, use eye protection when vomiting present as per point of care risk assessment (PCRA). Maintain precautions until 48 hours after symptoms have resolved. Place Contact plus and donning sign at entrance to resident room in a visible location. Place doffing sign in the doffing zone inside the room. Follow Preparing Rooms on Additional Precautions in Long-Term Care (LTC) and Assisted Living (AL). Review Supporting Residents Experiencing Responsive Behaviors. Staff to identify tablemates where a resident may have had an episode of emesis or uncontained loose stool. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult ICP for directions on management of close contacts. Dedicate equipment where possible - clean and disinfect shared equipment using a 2-step process after each use. 	
Hand Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soap and water hand washing is the preferred practice. If a hand hygiene sink is not available at point of care, staff to perform hand hygiene with ABHR and then immediately proceed to a hand hygiene sink to perform soap and water hand hygiene. 	
Group Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asymptomatic residents, including close contacts, may participate in on and off unit activities. 	



GI Monitoring - Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue monitoring residents for GI symptoms. • Record newly symptomatic residents on paper line list using the Bristol stool chart (date, time, number and type of episodes using the Bristol Stool Chart (e.g. Type 6 or 7).
GI Monitoring - Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-monitor for symptoms and stay home when symptomatic. • For staff experiencing nausea, vomiting or diarrhea at work they should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify their leader or charge nurse. • Avoid further resident contact. • Transfer essential duties and go directly home. • Close toileting facilities used by the symptomatic staff member until cleaned and disinfected. • Symptomatic staff shall not work in any health care facility until they are symptom free for 48 hours. • Symptomatic food-handler staff shall not work in any health care facility until they are symptom free for 72 hours.

**Appendix A
Template for Communication**

Name of Home				
Resident name	Floor/ unit	Symptom onset date	Date off precautions	Other

