



Edwin M Lee

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A Garcia, MPA

Director of Health

Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH

Health Officer

## Norovirus/Viral Gastroenteritis Control Recommendations for Shelters

Communicable Disease Control & Prevention

[sfdph.org/cdcp](http://sfdph.org/cdcp)

Tel (415) 554-2830 Fax (415) 554-2848

Date of Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_ CDCU Staff Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Facility: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: San Francisco State: CA Zip: 941

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of verbal review with facility contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

### General Recommendations

- Viral gastrointestinal illness can occur at any time of year, but is especially common during the fall and winter months, typically November through March.
- Spread of this infection can be controllable with good hygiene, cleaning, and hand washing. Public health staff can work with the shelter staff to figure out ways to separate any ill individuals from other residents as much as possible.
- If there are an unusually high number of ill clients or staff, notify SFDPH at (415) 554-2830.
- Ask clients to report any symptoms of diarrhea and/or vomiting with or without fever.
- Assure clients they won't lose their bed if they report feeling sick.
- If possible, isolate ill clients to one affected room/unit/floor and provide access to a private bathroom. Ill clients should eat meals separately from others.
- Refer clients with severe diarrhea, stomach cramps or fever to a medical provider for evaluation.
- All staff and clients should be told to wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after using the restroom, changing diapers and before and after eating, drinking and smoking.
- Provide access to hand washing sinks, making sure soap and paper towels are always stocked.
- Alcohol based hand sanitizer should be made available, and all clients and staff should use often if unable to wash hands with soap and water.
- Remind clients that if they have sex, they should avoid unprotected direct oral-anal contact.
- Ill staff should be sent home and should stay home until 48 hours without any symptoms.

### Recommendations for when there is an outbreak of viral gastroenteritis at your facility



Edwin M Lee

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A Garcia, MPA

Director of Health

Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH

Health Officer

## Norovirus/Viral Gastroenteritis Control Recommendations for Shelters

Communicable Disease Control & Prevention

[sfdph.org/cdcp](http://sfdph.org/cdcp)

Tel (415) 554-2830 Fax (415) 554-2848

- Implement extra cleaning and disinfection to bathrooms and dining area during an outbreak of GI illness. See below for cleaning recommendations.
- Limit group activities until advised by SFDPH that the outbreak is over.
- Serve meals individually to residents on disposable plates; no “family style” dining.
- Shelter managers should check with staff members daily, especially kitchen staff, to make sure that no one is sick with GI symptoms. If they are sick, they should be excluded from work for 48 hrs.

### Cleaning & disinfection recommendations if there are ill clients or staff at the shelter:

- Staff should use a freshly prepared diluted bleach solution for disinfection of fresh spills of vomit and diarrhea (1/2 cup household bleach/gallon of water per 2 tablespoons of household bleach per quart of water)
- Staff should always wear gloves, mask and gown/apron when cleaning up vomit or feces, and when cleaning bathrooms and other areas where people may have recently become ill.
- Clean and disinfect vomit and feces promptly, and make sure it doesn’t get tracked around the shelter. Use disposable gloves, mask, and gown/apron if possible. Change water and launder mop head or cloth after each cleanup, and daily.
- All surfaces that can be wiped down should be wiped down twice a day with diluted bleach. This includes bathrooms, tables, doorknobs, light switches/fixtures, plastic toys etc. A solution of ¼ cup of household bleach per gallon of water/1 tablespoon of bleach per quart can be used for routine cleaning.
- Soft furnishings or carpet should be cleaned with hot water and detergent or steam cleaned if soiled with vomit or diarrhea. Do not vacuum—vacuuming can spread the virus. If unable to clean properly, quarantine furniture item for 72 hours (cover item/s and inform all that these are off limits for 72 hours).

### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

---



---



---



---



---