



Technical Bulletin

Division of Public and Behavioral Health



Date: April 10, 2014

Topic: Outbreak Reporting to the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Contact: Julia Peek, Manager, Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology

To: All State-Licensed Facilities

Outbreaks are not uncommon in healthcare and childcare facilities; however, in order to ensure appropriate and immediate action is taken to reduce the spread of illness, all outbreaks must be reported to the public health authority. Norovirus is a common agent for outbreaks, but any outbreak must be reported.

Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 441 A, adopted by the State Board of Health, outlines the reporting requirements in the event of an outbreak or potential outbreak. An outbreak is defined as the occurrence of cases in a community, geographic region or particular population at a rate in excess of that which is normally expected in that community, geographic region or particular population. A report must be made immediately after identifying a case having or a suspected case considered to have an "extraordinary occurrence of illness" or any infection or disease that is known or suspected to be related to an act of intentional transmission or biological terrorism, or that is or is considered possibly to be part of an outbreak or a suspected outbreak.

Additionally, NAC 441A.280 requires that a case, suspected case, carrier, contact or other person, upon request by a health authority, promptly cooperate during an investigation of the circumstances or cause of a case, suspected case, outbreak or suspected outbreak. Facilities must also cooperate during the carrying out of measures for the prevention, suppression and control of a communicable disease.

The Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology has developed two free and interactive online trainings that can allow healthcare and childcare facilities prepare for, and address, norovirus outbreaks. The trainings cover:

- Nevada Administrative Code; rights of patients
- Illness and symptoms, and transmission of virus
- Outbreak prevention and active surveillance
- Isolation of patients/children and staff
- Proper hand hygiene, personal protective equipment
- Methods of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing
- Infection control measure check list

To access the trainings, visit the following link: http://health.nv.gov/IPCinitiative_Education_Events.htm. To receive CEUs, print out the certificate of completion and send it to Kimisha Griffin at kgriffin@health.nv.gov.

To report a known or suspected outbreak at a state-licensed facility, contact the Division of Public and Behavioral Health at outbreak@health.nv.gov or 775-400-0333 (both available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tracey D. Green".

Tracey D. Green, MD
Chief Medical Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Whitley".

Richard Whitley, MS
Administrator