



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

January 8, 2018

MEDICAL ADVISORY: NOROVIRUS CLUSTER
ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE ON OAHU

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) is investigating at least 23 cases of likely norovirus infection among persons who attended an event at the Halekulani Hotel on Oahu the weekend of December 30, 2017. Five cases have been laboratory confirmed. The median incubation period appears to have been 33 hours (range 17–56 hours). The most commonly reported symptoms include non-bloody diarrhea, anorexia, vomiting, nausea, and abdominal cramps. All have recovered, and none have required hospitalization. However, we have received additional reports of ill persons associated with a separate event at the hotel the same weekend. Investigations are ongoing to determine whether these new reports may be related.

Norovirus infection is characterized by an abrupt onset of vomiting with watery diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and nausea after an incubation period of 12–48 hours. Infections may be more prolonged in the very young, elderly, and medically compromised. Other systemic symptoms (e.g., fever, malaise, headache) may be present but are not usually the predominant finding. Treatment is generally supportive to provide rehydration and maintain fluid and electrolyte balance.

Norovirus transmission usually occurs person-to-person via the fecal-oral or even vomitus-oral route through ingestion of contaminated food or water or by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching mucous membranes. Confirmation requires detection of virus RNA by real-time reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) from a stool specimen.

More information on norovirus infection can be found at http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease_listing/norovirus/.

Note that all food handlers and direct care providers (e.g., healthcare providers or day care staff) who are suspected or confirmed as having norovirus infection should be restricted from work until they are asymptomatic. If you have any questions or need to report a case, please call:

- Oahu (Disease Investigation Branch) (808) 586-8362
- Maui District Health Office (808) 984-8213
- Kauai District Health Office..... (808) 241-3563
- Big Island District Health Office (Hilo) (808) 933-0912

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January 8, 2018

Page 2

Big Island District Health Office (Kona).....(808) 322-4877
After hours on Oahu(808) 566-5049
After hours on neighbor islands.....(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We appreciate your assistance in preventing infections among Hawaii’s residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP
State Epidemiologist
Hawaii Department of Health

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