

# Norovirus Important Information



This highly contagious virus is the leading cause of acute gastroenteritis in the USA.

## Transmission

- Shed in stool and vomit
- Person-to-person via touch
- Lives on surfaces for weeks
- Easily passed in food
- Can infect pool water

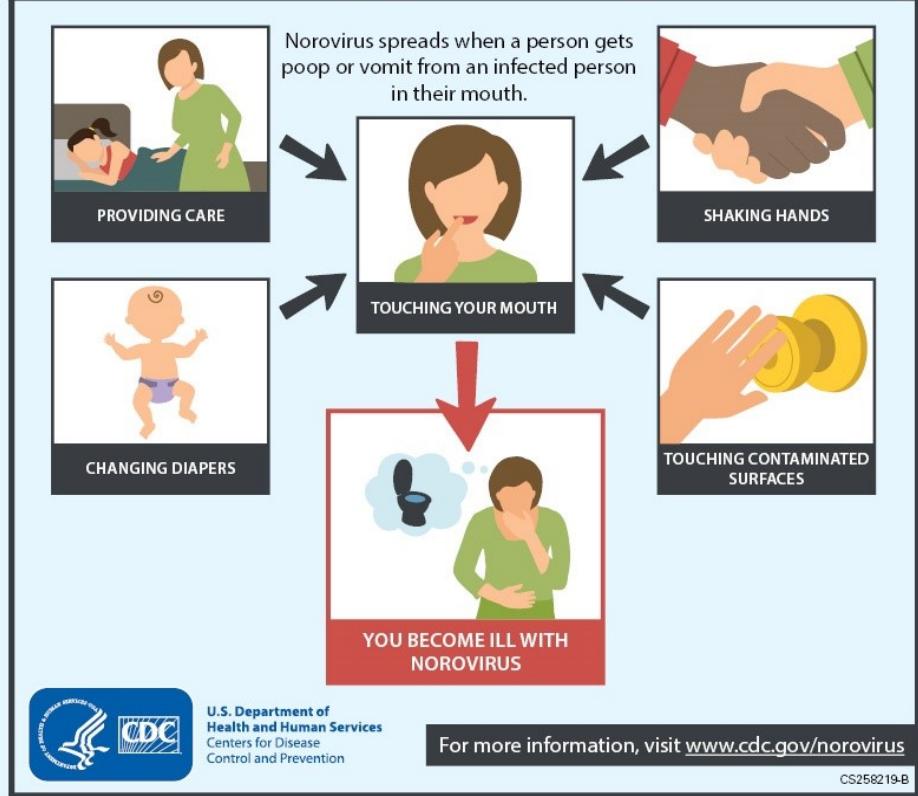
## Symptoms

- Acute nausea, cramps
- Vomiting
- Watery diarrhea
- Headache
- Low grade fever

## Treatment

There is no specific treatment, only symptom management. Typically lasts 1-3 days.

### How You Get Norovirus From People or Surfaces



## Complicating Factors

Often mislabeled as “the stomach flu” and incorrectly confused with influenza.

30% of cases are asymptomatic but infectious.

It is an extremely hardy virus and hard to kill.

# Norovirus outbreak Response



## What is considered an outbreak?

Outbreak status is met when two (2) or more cases of a similar norovirus illness are shown by an investigation to have an epidemiologic link in person, time and/or place **or** when a school reaches the 20% absenteeism threshold for norovirus-like illness.

## If there is an outbreak follow these steps:

### call

Allen County Department of Health

Infectious Disease and Case Management Services

(260) 449-7556

### Exclude & Isolate

Exclude cases until symptom free for 24-hours.

Isolate acutely sick children who are still at school.

Exclude any food handlers with GI-illness symptoms.

### sanitize

The virus can survive below freezing and up to 140°F. It can also survive food quick steaming, up to 10ppm of chlorine, and direct sunlight. Thorough norovirus-specific sanitizers or a bleach solution should be used on all surfaces that could have been contaminated by touch, or aerosolized vomit.

### prevent

Frequently clean and sanitize high-touch surfaces.

Wash hands frequently with soap and water.

Hand sanitizer is typically ineffective for norovirus.

Use PPE anytime you clean up vomit or stool.