

# Outbreaks of Diarrhoea and Vomiting

## What is an outbreak?

An outbreak is two or more linked cases. i.e 2 residents in the same unit, 1 resident and 1 staff member on the same unit.

## Who should I inform ?

Inform the Community infection control team  
Ensure **all** staff including housekeeping are aware of outbreak



**Hand Hygiene is essential in preventing the spread of infection. Don't forget this applies to staff and residents.**

## Specimen testing

You will be given an Incident log number by the Infection control team ( I log number)  
Collect specimen in correct container.  
Ensure specimen and form is correctly labelled with three identifiers + the I log number.  
Ensure the request form states outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting and requests "viral studies"

## What do we need to do?

### Implement Strict Infection Control Precautions.

- Isolate residents until 48 hours clear of symptoms
- Implement enhanced cleaning using sodium hypochlorite solution i.e Milton.
- Ensure the correct use of personal protective equipment. Masks should **not** be used.
- Obtain faecal specimens
- Ensure the stool type and times of diarrhoea/vomiting is recorded in nursing records. Use the Bristol Stool chart.
- Minimise the movement of staff in the home.

## Precautions for Staff and Visitors.

- Cancel all non-essential visits. i.e hairdresser.
- Inform visitors of diarrhoea and vomiting outbreak. You can advise but not prevent visiting, however no children.
- Staff with symptoms to remain absent from work until 48 hours clear of symptoms.
- Minimise the movement of all staff to affected units.

## Bristol Stool Chart

Type 1		Separate hard lumps, like nuts (hard to pass)
Type 2		Sausage-shaped but lumpy
Type 3		Like a sausage but with cracks on its surface
Type 4		Like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft
Type 5		Soft blobs with clear-cut edges (passed easily)
Type 6		Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool
Type 7		Watery, no solid pieces. <b>Entirely Liquid</b>

The infection control team will monitor the outbreak daily. Please contact them if you require any additional advice/support on 01744 457 314