FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  06/21/2019
TO: Grant County Healthcare Providers

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GCHD Staff are Investigating Suspect Norovirus Cases in Moses Lake, WA

GRANT COUNTY, WA – Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, has issued the following alert to the Grant County healthcare community: Grant County Health District (GCHD) staff are investigating suspected norovirus cases in 20 residents and 4 staff at Lake Ridge Center in Moses Lake, WA. There is the potential for more cases to occur. The symptoms onset began Tuesday, June 18th.

Actions requested and testing for providers
If patients linked to the Lake Ridge present with the below-described symptoms, please notify GCHD and perform following tests: PCR stool (or vomit when available) for Norovirus 1 and 2, bacterial stool culture, and other tests as deemed necessary. If a patient has symptoms consistent with norovirus, isolate for a minimum of 48 hours after symptom resolution.

Symptoms
A person usually develops symptoms 12 to 48 hours after being exposed to norovirus. Most people with norovirus illness get better within 1 to 3 days. The most common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and some stomach cramping.

Prevention
Always perform appropriate hand hygiene, particularly after contact with fecal material or after contact with anyone suspected/confirmed with norovirus. Wear gloves when caring for symptomatic patients.

Resources
Norovirus Guidelines for Healthcare Settings | CDC
Norovirus Outbreak Response Toolkit | WA DOH

Consultation
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