

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 1/31/2020

TO: Grant County Healthcare Providers

FOR INFORMATION CONTACTJill McCullough, RN, Public Health Nurse
509-766-7960 ext. 25**GCHD Staff Investigating Outbreaks of Norovirus Illness in Moses Lake**

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 multiple residents and staff at two separate Moses Lake long-term care facilities—Summer Wood and Avamere—with additional linked illnesses at Columbia Basin Job Corps. There is the potential for more illnesses to occur.** The onset of the illnesses began around January 24 and have continued to increase in numbers throughout the week. As of today, January 31, 2020, approximately 74 people have become symptomatic. No deaths have been reported. Norovirus has been lab confirmed in stool samples collected from residents at one of the facilities.

Actions requested and testing for providers

If patients linked to any of these three facilities present with symptoms of norovirus infection (below), please notify GCHD and consider performing the 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, it is recommended to 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. Additional personal protection measures are necessary in areas contaminated with vomit or diarrhea, including use of masks and gowns. Facility-wide environmental controls should be increased during this time.

Resources

[Norovirus Guidelines for Healthcare Settings](#) | CDC

[Norovirus Outbreak Response Toolkit](#) | WA DOH

Consultation

Jill McCullough, RN, Public Health Nurse -- 509-766-7960 ext. 25 or jmccullough@granthealth.org

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