

Gastroenteritis (Enteric) Outbreak Control Measures: Recreational Camp

Communication	Applicable = <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Not Applicable = <input type="checkbox"/>
Communicate information about outbreak to all campers, staff, and parents/caregivers (MOH, p. 23).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide parents/caregivers with letter/ fact sheet if appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notify visitors of potential risk of being exposed to illness at the camp. This may include posting signs indicating that the camp is experiencing an outbreak (MOH, p. 40).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Complete separate line listing for campers and staff (MOH, p. 24) daily. Fax to Health Unit by 11am to 705-482-0670 .	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fax/email a copy of the menu for the 7 days prior to the onset of symptoms in the first case to 705-482-0670 .	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infection Prevention and Control Precautions	
Reinforce the importance of good hand washing , especially after using the washroom and before eating. Staff should also wash their hands after assisting with toileting, after removing gloves, before handling food, and frequently throughout the day (PIDAC, 2014).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hand washing facilities should be checked to ensure that running water, supply of soap in a dispenser and paper towels, or hand dryers are available and accessible for use (PIDAC, 2014).	<input type="checkbox"/>
If hand washing facilities are not available and hands are not visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) with at least 70% alcohol can be used. Young children should only use it under adult supervision (PIDAC, 2014).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discourage sharing of any food, drinks, or utensils (MOH, p. 42). Remove exposed food (fruit, cookies) from common areas, including staff and activity lounges.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide disposable gloves to staff for diapering, assisting with toileting, cleaning up body fluids, and soiled clothing/bedding (PIDAC, 2018, p. 37).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exclude ill campers and staff (i.e., in a medical unit or designated building) until symptoms resolve or guidelines based on a causative agent (MOH, p. 11, 23, 31): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ill campers and staff must not prepare any food/drinks or participate in activities that involve direct person to person contact until 48 hours after symptoms resolve or guidelines based on a causative agent. • Campers and staff must practice excellent hand washing throughout illness and continue once symptoms resolve. • In some instances, it may be recommended that ill campers/staff are removed from the camp environment. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review staff assignments. Designate staff to care for only symptomatic individuals. Staff who care for/supervise ill campers should not handle food (MOH, p. 27).	<input type="checkbox"/>
If food service staff become ill while working, discard all ready-to-eat food they prepared on shift (MOH, p. 78).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection	
Continue cleaning/sanitizing practices in food preparation areas as outlined by your Public Health Inspector.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase routine cleaning and disinfection of common touch items such as door handles, railings, light switches, toilets, sinks and handles to twice daily, and at least once daily for low touch surfaces (shelving, windowsills) (p. 34-35).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promptly clean and disinfect surfaces contaminated by stool and vomit. Immediately cover spillage with dry disposable paper towels (PIDAC, 2018, p. 169).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hard surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned with soap, hot water, and a single use cloth then wiped down with a suitable disinfectant (e.g., Accelerated hydrogen peroxide product and allow for contact time indicated on the product or sodium hypochlorite solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) and allow 10 minutes contact time followed by a rinse of the area/object). Mix fresh bleach solutions daily, verify concentrations with appropriate testing agents (i.e., test strips) (PIDAC, 2018, p. 108, 110). List disinfectant being used: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean soiled carpets and soft furnishings with hot water and detergent or steam clean. Vacuum cleaning is not recommended (PIDAC, 2018, p. 110).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contaminated clothing, bedding, plush toys, and non-disposable mop heads should be laundered on hot cycle with detergent and hot air dried (York Region Public Health, 2019, p. 63).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toys and sports/activity equipment in an outbreak affected area should be cleaned and disinfected at least daily. Remove from use where possible (York Region Public Health, 2019, p. 63).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toys and sports/activity equipment handled by a camper who becomes ill should be removed from use until they have been cleaned and disinfected (York Region Public Health, 2019, p. 63).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities	
Stop interactions between groups that experienced illness and groups that have not experienced illness (MOH, p. 27).	<input type="checkbox"/>

Consider suspending field trips, overnight trips, and large social gatherings. Review these with the Health Unit.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laboratory Testing	
Have ill campers assessed by a healthcare provider. If stool specimens are collected, outbreak number should be placed on the specimen where possible. The Health Unit may facilitate delivery of specimens to the laboratory, if needed.	<input type="checkbox"/>

References

Ministry of Health. (April 2024). Recommendations for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Institutions and Congregate Living Settings. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-04/moh-recommendations-for-outbreak-prevention-and-control-in-institutions-and-cls-en-2024-04-09.pdf>

Ministry of Health (MOH). (2023). Childcare Health and Safety Requirements. Retried from <https://www.ontario.ca/document/covid-19-operational-guidance-child-care/health-and-safety-requirements#section-3>

York Region Public Health. (2019). A Public Health Guide for Childcare Providers. Retrieved from: <https://www.york.ca/support/childrens-services/public-health-guide-child-care-providers>

[Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee \(PIDAC\). \(April 2018\). Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Health Care Settings, 3rd Edition. *Public Health Ontario \(PHO\)*. Retrieved from <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/b/2018/bp-environmental-cleaning.pdf>](https://www.ontario.ca/document/covid-19-operational-guidance-child-care/health-and-safety-requirements#section-3)

Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). (2014). Best Practices for Hand Hygiene in All Health Care Settings, 4th Edition. *Public Health Ontario (PHO)*. Retrieved from <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/b/2014/bp-hand-hygiene.pdf>