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## **Control Measures for Facilities Experiencing an Increased Number of Patients with Gastrointestinal (GI) Illness**

Below is a list of general control measures that have been implemented in area facilities during a cluster of GI illness.

### **General**

- Temporarily suspend new patient admissions and transfers
- Cancel group activities
- Meals should be eaten in patients' rooms and not the dining room until outbreak is over
- Disposable plates, cups, and utensils should be provided for meals
- Limit ill resident movement to respective room until 48 hours after symptoms have ended
- Exclude ill employees from work until 48 hours after symptoms have ended
- Limit visitor access to residents and postpone any non-essential visits (e.g. tours and any external groups)
- Cohort staff/nursing to reduce spread from ill patients to well residents
- Send a courtesy letter or contact families of all patients
- Post a sign on the front door alerting people to the symptoms patients are experiencing

### **Cleaning**

- Sanitize all surfaces especially high touch areas (e.g. doorknobs, railings, tabletops) as often as possible, at least twice day using bleach solution or disinfectant effective for Norovirus
- Use proper measures for cleaning surfaces soiled with feces/vomit. Then disinfect area with appropriate product using label directions.
- Stress hand washing to all staff and residents
- Make alcohol-based hand sanitizer readily available throughout facility but hand washing is MOST effective
- Housekeeping staff cleaning after ill patients should use universal precautions including gloves, gowns, and face masks