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"To improve the health of our communities by identifying and assuring sustainable solutions to community health issues."

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK HEALTH DISTRICT 4

NOROVIRUS ALERT FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

Central District Health Department Urges Medical Providers and Long-Term Care Facilities to Implement Infection Control Measures for Suspect Norovirus Patients

November 18, 2011

On November 17, Central District Health Department (CDHD) confirmed outbreaks of norovirus in a long-term care facility (LTCF) and an elementary school. On November 18, a hospital reported a cluster of patients with vomiting and diarrhea.

Norovirus is a highly contagious viral disease often spread by close contact with an ill person. Mode of transmission is typically fecal-oral; however, aerosol transmission can occur from vomitus.

Norovirus symptoms include a sudden onset of nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea, often accompanied by low-grade fever. Duration of illness is typically 24-48 hours but may be longer in elderly or immune-compromised patients.

Please consider norovirus if a patient presents with a sudden onset of vomiting and/or diarrhea, especially when they have been exposed to another person with similar symptoms. **Implement infection control measures immediately if norovirus is suspected, prior to definitive diagnosis.** Hospitals and long-term care facilities should consider posting notices on their doors asking ill visitors to stay away and remind ill staff to stay home.

For additional information contact the Office of Communicable Disease Control at 327-8625.

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NOROVIRUS ALERT HAN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS NOVEMBER 2011