

# Gastrointestinal Illness Outbreak

## Manage an outbreak in Correctional Centres

All staff share the responsibility for keeping residents safe. Complete the following actions when a gastrointestinal illness outbreak is confirmed. This checklist provides general measures only – always refer to the corresponding section in the [Guide for Outbreak Prevention & Control in Provincial Correctional Centres](#) for detailed recommendations. When applicable, follow site-specific protocols.

Infection Prevention Control measures	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Medically isolate confirmed and symptomatic residents.	4.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement IPC recommendations in <a href="#">Figure 1</a> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Place Modified Respiratory precaution signage outside cell / medical isolation space of confirmed and symptomatic residents.</li><li>Wear recommended PPE (including mask/respirators, gloves, gown and eye protection).</li><li>Conduct an <a href="#">Infection Prevention and Control Risk Assessment (IPCRA)</a> prior to every resident interaction.</li><li>Perform hand hygiene and practice respiratory etiquette.</li></ul>	4.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Use a mask and eye protection if there is a risk of sprays of bodily fluids or when caring for residents who are actively vomiting.	9.1
Administrative measures	Guide Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Notify appropriate HCW/staff and departments within the unit/range/centre.	5.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Place <a href="#">outbreak signage</a> at the entrance of the unit/range/centre.	5.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Report daily to the AHS Public Health Outbreak Team as per zone process.	5.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Assign HCW/staff to care for asymptomatic residents before symptomatic residents.	4.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Cohort HWC/staff to work only in affected or only in unaffected areas.	4.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Inform residents of the outbreak.	5.2

<b>Resident restrictions</b>	<b>Guide Section</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Medically isolate symptomatic residents with meal service in their cell/medical isolation space for the duration of the acute illness, and until 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.	9.3
<input type="checkbox"/> Alert transport staff and the receiving site to use additional precautions if a symptomatic resident is attending another site for a medically necessary appointment.	9.3
<b>Restrictions on affected unit/range</b>	<b>Guide Section</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement restrictions for the unit/range/centre as directed by the AHS Public Health Outbreak Team.	9.4 / 9.5
<b>Group/social activities and other events</b>	<b>Guide Section</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Postpone all group activities.	9.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Consult with the AHS Public Health Outbreak Team regarding restrictions to activities if group activities are an essential part of treatment.	9.7
<b>Nourishment areas / sharing of food</b>	<b>Guide Section</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Deliver meals to confirmed or symptomatic residents in their cell/medical isolation space.	9.8
<input type="checkbox"/> Continue group dining for asymptomatic residents with shared food containers/items (such as salt and pepper shakers) removed.	9.8
<input type="checkbox"/> Close the kitchen/nourishment areas accessed by residents/visitors.	9.8
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>Guide Section</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Follow any visitor restrictions as recommended by the Public Health Outbreak Team.	4.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Advise visitors to use recommended precautions when visiting symptomatic residents.	9.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend symptomatic visitors delay visit.	4.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Advise visitors of the potential risk of exposure to a symptomatic resident and to practice hand hygiene before and after visiting.	9.9
<b>HCW/Staff outbreak control measures</b>	<b>Guide Section</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Advise symptomatic HCW/staff to report illness to manager/designate and to not attend work.	4.10

<input type="checkbox"/> Advise symptomatic HCW/staff with GI symptoms to not attend work until 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting and/or diarrhea.	9.2 / 9.10
<input type="checkbox"/> Advise HCW/staff who develop symptoms at work to perform hand hygiene, inform, inform manager of the illness, and leave the workplace as soon as possible.	4.10
<b>Specimen collection</b>	<b>Guide Section</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Follow Public Health Outbreak Team specimen collection recommendations for symptomatic residents.	4.11
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure proper collection, handling, and labelling (including EI #) on all specimens.	4.11
<b>Enhanced environmental cleaning and disinfection</b>	<b>Guide Section</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Perform cleaning using PPE and recommended cleaning products.	9.12
<input type="checkbox"/> Follow recommendation in <a href="#">Principles for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection</a> .	9.12
<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance cleaning and disinfection frequency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean and disinfect low touch surfaces at least once per day and high touch areas at least twice per day.</li> <li>• Immediately clean and disinfect visibly dirty surfaces.</li> </ul>	4.12
<input type="checkbox"/> Use a 'wipe twice' procedure (a 2-step process) to clean and then disinfect surfaces.	4.12
<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a post isolation/additional precautions cleaning and disinfection when the outbreak is closed.	10