

Attachment 7: Infection Control Recommendations for Multiple Patients/Healthcare Personnel with Signs/Symptoms of Gastroenteritis

The following measures will be implemented to prevent the spread of gastroenteritis:

- I. Patients
 - A. Patients with symptoms of gastroenteritis (for example, 3 or more loose stools in 24 hours; vomiting and diarrhea) will be placed on Enteric Precautions. Notify Infection Prevention (984-974-7500 or page using myUNC Health Directory) if additional cases occur.
 - B. Ideally, do not transfer symptomatic patients to an unaffected nursing unit until at least 48 hours after symptoms have ended.
 - C. Consider cohorting-affected patients to designated staff.
 - D. In certain outbreak situations additional enhanced precautions may be necessary (e.g. closure of a unit) at the discretion of Infection Prevention.
- II. Staff
 - A. Staff with symptoms of gastroenteritis will not be allowed to work until asymptomatic for 48 hours.
 - B. Staff will not eat or drink on the unit (consuming meals in the breakroom is allowed).
 - C. Staff will perform hand hygiene with soap and water and in accordance with the [Infection Prevention policy: Hand Hygiene and Use of Antiseptics for Skin Preparation](#)
Gastroenteritis is spread by the fecal-oral route therefore, hand hygiene is essential before eating and after using the bathroom.
- III. Housekeeping
 - A. Gloves and gown should be worn to clean Enteric Precautions rooms.
 - B. Norovirus
 1. Environmental Services will perform a thorough cleaning of the patient's room and floor with a sporicidal cleaning agent (e.g., a 1:10 solution of bleach and water).
 2. For outbreaks (e.g., ≥ 3 patients on a nursing unit overlapping in time), all routine daily cleaning by Environmental Services should be done with a sporicidal cleaning agent for the entire unit, until 48 hours after last patient is symptomatic and there are no further cases among staff or patients.
 - C. *C. difficile* and Rotavirus
 1. Terminal cleaning of the room surfaces and floors will be done using a sporicidal cleaning agent
 2. Additional cleaning may be indicated for outbreaks and as directed by Infection Prevention.

For questions about this policy or for other infection control concerns, contact Infection Prevention at 984-974-7500