

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (57) in DH/SEB/CD/8/39/1
來函檔號 Your Ref :
電話 Tel. :
傳真 Fax No. : 2711 4847

9 January 2008

Dear Doctors,

Recent increase in norovirus gastroenteritis

I would like to draw your attention to the prevention of viral gastroenteritis in response to recent increase in norovirus activity. There were 15 institutional outbreaks caused by norovirus reported to Centre of Health Protection affecting 167 persons in December 2007, as compared with 5 outbreaks affecting 44 persons in November 2007. In the first 7 day of 2008, 6 outbreaks of norovirus were reported, all occurring in elderly homes affecting 48 persons. In addition, our sentinel surveillance based at elderly homes also showed recent elevated activity of acute diarrhoea and vomiting.

Gastroenteritis caused by norovirus can occur throughout the year but are known to occur more frequently in winter months (December to February). To this end, I would like to seek your assistance in advising your staff and patients to adhere to strict personal, food and environmental hygiene. In particular:

1. To wash hand using liquid soap especially before meals and after going to toilet;
2. Any vomiting episode need to be properly handled and disinfected by applying diluted bleach 1:49 to the soiled surface and neighbouring area;
3. Ensure all the water closets are in proper function and toilet areas are regularly cleansed and disinfected.



Patients with vomiting or diarrhea should be advised to refrain from work especially those working in institutional settings. If you notice an increase in the number of residents or staff of institutions with symptoms of viral gastroenteritis, please inform the Central Notification Office of CHP as soon as possible via Fax: 2477 2770 or Tel:2477 2772. CHP will provide advice in the management of such cases and take appropriate control measures.

For more information on norovirus, please visit the website of CHP at the following URL: http://www.chp.gov.hk/content.asp?lang=en&info_id=33&id=24&pid=9

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SK CHUANG', is centered on the page.

(Dr SK CHUANG)

Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease)
Surveillance and Epidemiology Branch
Centre for Health Protection