

Norovirus Sample Submission Tips

If you suspect an outbreak of norovirus,

1) Gather epidemiologic information, including:

- Number of people ill (residents/patrons/students and employees)
- Symptoms experienced
- When symptoms began
- How long symptoms are lasting
- Type of facility and population of facility

2) Call Bureau of Epidemiology – Brenda Brennan (517) 335-8165 – to obtain testing approval and necessary instructions prior to sending samples

3) If testing was approved, start collecting specimens. A **minimum of 3 specimens and a maximum of 6 specimens** are required for testing. Bureau of Epidemiology recommends collecting 4-6 specimens for outbreak confirmation. Do not collect specimens from individuals in the same household.

- Collect specimens in sterile plastic container without preservative

4) If specimen kits were dropped off, go back and pick up the specimens. The samples need to be checked by the LHD prior to sending. Do NOT assume your directions will be followed

5) Verify that lab requisition is complete with proper demographic information, test code (2951), and **outbreak identifier**

6) Verify that tube is labeled with submitter information, date of collection, and outbreak identifier

SAMPLES THAT ARRIVE WITHOUT PROPER LABELING, COMPLETED REQUISITION OR SUBMITTER INFORMATION WILL BE DISCARDED AND NOT TESTED

7) Call Bureau of Epidemiology (517) 335-8165 to verify date of specimen shipment and final number of specimens collected

8) Ship or deliver your samples to your **Regional Laboratory**

To locate your Regional Lab, visit:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2945_5103_7168-14767--,00.html

Please know how your samples will be sent (FedEx, UPS, courier, etc.) Have this established PRIOR to your outbreak investigation!