
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kent County Health Department Investigates Norovirus-like illness at Davenport University

GRAND RAPIDS – The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is working with Davenport University to investigate a large outbreak of [Norovirus-like illness](#) at the W.A. Lettinga Campus located at 6191 Kraft Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

University officials became aware of widespread illness among students and staff Sunday Jan. 14, 2018. Since then more than 100 students, faculty and staff have complained of being ill.

Because of the rapid rise in the number of cases the Kent County Health Department sent staff members to the campus on Tuesday Jan.16. KCHD employees worked to collect stool samples to confirm Norovirus. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will test the samples. Results should be available by the end of the week.

Because Norovirus spreads very quickly and very easily person to person and by touching surfaces that are contaminated with vomit or stool, KCHD has made the following recommendations to Davenport University to slow the progress of the infection.

- Isolate all ill individuals in their rooms from onset of symptoms until 48 hours after symptoms cease. Provide in room food service for these individuals and provide appropriate cleaning agents and instructions for cleaning shared areas (such as dorm bathrooms).
- Have appropriate cleaning supplies available for all students as a preventive measure.
- Shut down or limit food service (i.e. provide box lunches) to allow for a thorough cleaning of the food service area (kitchen and seating areas).

The most common symptoms of Norovirus are diarrhea, vomiting, nausea and stomach pain. A person may also have a fever, headache or body aches. Symptoms usually develop 12 – 48 hours after being exposed and most people will get better within 1- 3 days.

A person infected may feel extremely ill. They may vomit or have diarrhea several times a day. This may lead to dehydration especially in young children, older adults and people with other illnesses. It is important to take in additional fluids if you notice a decrease in urination, dry mouth and throat or feel dizzy when standing up.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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