



TOWNSHIP OF UNION

IN THE COUNTY OF UNION

Department of Health and Environmental Protection
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Abdominal Virus Health Alert 1-8-10

New York City has seen a nearly 60% increase in emergency room visits with patients ill with vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain.

This illness has been identified as the highly transmitted agent norovirus.

Due to our proximity and with frequent commuting to and from the City clinical presentation maybe come evident in our area in the coming days.

Group settings such as day cares, schools and work environments are likely sources for the spread of the norovirus. Emphasis is placed on the following to help prevent the spread of this virus.

1. Wash hands thoroughly as the virus is ***highly transmittable*** and especially via the fecal oral route;
2. Limit exposure to vomit. Use gloves and paper towels for clean up. Keep children away from contaminated areas and have them wash hands and face with soap and water.
3. Norovirus can persist on environments so make sure contaminated surfaces are sanitized with a 10% bleach solution.
4. Parents need to keep sick children home from school and day care. Schools and day cares must not allow sick children to attend and expose others. Children who become ill in school or day cares must be kept from others and taken home as soon as possible by parents.
5. Workers should also stay home when ill. Staff especially in day cares, schools, medical care and food handling must not work while sick.
6. Return to work or school only 2 days after illness abates.

Outbreaks of this norovirus are required to be reported to the local health department.

**A PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGE OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION AND KENILWORTH BOROUGH
DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH**

PUBLIC HEALTH BE IN-TU-IT!