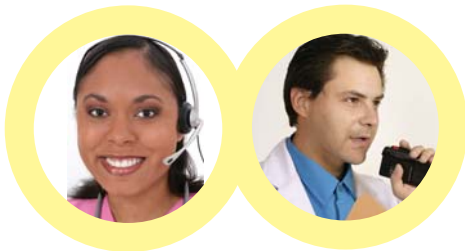


3. Report

Under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter H.7, the diseases specified in Ontario Regulation 559/91, Amended to O.Reg. 96/03 must be reported to the local Medical Officer of Health.

- ✓ Report all laboratory confirmed reportable diseases
- ✓ Report individual cases, even without laboratory confirmation, if:
 - there is suspicion that an individual may be part of a larger outbreak
 - there are more individuals who develop enteric symptoms after a specific group event.³
- ✓ Report noticeable increases in unusual illnesses, symptom complexes, or disease patterns.³

Prompt reporting allows the public health department to initiate an epidemiologic investigation earlier than would be possible if awaiting definitive etiologic diagnosis.³



It is important to maintain this high index of suspicion to prevent secondary transmission and reduce the extent of an outbreak.

4. Educate

Advise patients presenting with diarrhea to:

- ✓ Practice good personal hygiene, especially proper hand washing. Household contacts should also be advised on the importance of hand washing.
- ✓ Avoid food preparation.
- ✓ Remain off work, school, or daycare while symptomatic.

Note:

Anyone who is a health care worker, food handler or works with children should remain off work until **symptom-free for 24-48 hours or longer**, depending on the infectious organism. For more information, contact York Region Health Services.

References

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2. Radja, Z. & Middleton, D. (2004). Descriptive epidemiology of enteric diseases in Ontario, 2002. *Public Health and Epidemiology Report Ontario (PHERO)*, 15(4), 123-126. Retrieved August 25, 2005, from: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pub/phero/pdf/2004/phero_0604.pdf
3. Anderson, E.R., Koplan, J., Henney, J.E., & Billy, T.J. (2001). Diagnosis and management of foodborne illnesses: a primer for physicians. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 50(RR02), 1-69. Retrieved July 5, 2005, from: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5002a1.htm>

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Diarrhea happens

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