Quick Reference Guide for Management of Gastrointestinal Symptoms



Assess 1

Has the resident had 2 or more episodes of new or unexplained gastrointestinal symptoms? (i.e., vomiting and/or diarrhea in a 24 hour period above what is normal for them)

If yes: Continue to Step 2

If no: Continue to monitor and if resident develops any new or worsening symptoms go to

If no: Continue to monitor and if resident develops any new or worsening symptoms go to Step 2

Isolate 2

Isolate and Initiate Additional Precautions

- Place the resident in isolation
- Initiate droplet/contact precautions: Eye protection, gown, gloves and mask (Well-fitted mask or N95 must be worn until COVID-19 is ruled out). Ensure signage and PPE is in place at resident room.

Has there been two or more residents with similar symptoms within the last 48 hours?

Report 3

If yes: Call WDGPH @ 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4752 (during business hours) or 1-877-884-8653 (after hours, weekends, and holidays) and gather this information then follow Steps 4 and 5:

- Number of ill residents and/or staff
- Symptoms
- Date of symptom onset
- Affected unit, floor or wing
- Hospitalizations/deaths

If no: You do not need to notify WDGPH. Continue to still follow steps 4 and 5.

Test

Complete Specimen Collection

- Collect PCR swab by registered staff as soon as possible and test for respiratory/COVID-19 viruses. PCR swab should always be completed on symptomatic residents even if a RAT result is negative and/or if the resident only has gastrointestinal symptoms.
- Collect stool sample (bacterial and virology) as per WDGPH recommendations
 - Check expiration dates before using. If you require additional test kits please call PH and they can be provided.

Case Management

Gastrointestinal

Isolation: Resident to remain in isolation until 48hrs symptoms free

Close contact: Monitor closely for signs and symptoms (s/s). Isolate and test if symptoms develop.

PPE: Gown and gloves but if chance of splashes (explosive diarrhea/vomiting) wear eye protection, mask, gown and gloves

• Outbreak is declared over as per PH guidance: When norovirus is suspected or confirmed, the outbreak is declared over no sooner than 5 days from the last resident case.

COVID-19

Isolation: 10 days from symptom onset. Resident can come out of room after day 5, when symptoms have improved for 48hr, no fever is present, and resident is able to independently and consistently wear a mask from day 6-10.

Roommate: Place in isolation and may discontinue after 5 days if asymptomatic (test only if symptomatic). Monitor s/s twice daily and should wear mask and physical distance when outside of room until day 10 from last exposure (if tolerated).

Close contact: Monitor closely for s/s twice daily. Isolate and test if symptoms develop. Encourage to wear mask and physically distance for 7 days following last exposure (if tolerated).

PPE: Well-fitted medical mask OR fit tested N95, eye protection, gown and gloves **Antiviral Treatment:** Consult with physician.

Assessment: All residents in an outbreak area should be monitored daily for symptoms. Outbreak is declared over as per PH guidance: No sooner than 8 days from last resident case.

Manage 5