

Pembroke Regional Hospital

MEMO

To: All Staff and Physicians
From: Kirsten Johnson, Manager of Infection Control
Date: 2025 April 17th
Subject: Enteric Outbreak Declared – Medical and Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit

Today, in collaboration with the Renfrew County District Health Unit, Pembroke Regional Hospital has declared an enteric outbreak on the 3rd Medical Unit and the Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit. An enteric outbreak is declared when there is a sudden increase in cases of gastrointestinal illness (GI), typically involving diarrhea and/or vomiting.

As a result, the following outbreak control measures must be strictly followed:

- All patients exhibiting GI signs or symptoms must be placed on contact precautions immediately.
 - Staff and physicians working on these units must report any new onset symptoms to the Occupational Health and Safety team (ext. 7202) or Clinical Resource after hours (ext. 6820).
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn when providing care to symptomatic patients.
 - Staff and physicians are reminded to complete a point of care risk assessment prior to each patient interaction and don any additional PPE that may be indicated.
 - Frequent and thorough handwashing must be performed, in accordance with the 4 moments of hand hygiene. Washing hands with soap and water is the preferred method during an enteric outbreak and can be done in conjunction with alcohol-based hand rub at the point of care.
 - Enhanced environmental cleaning must be conducted and appropriate contact time adhered to.
 - Visitor restrictions are in effect. One essential caregiver per patient is permitted at this time. Special considerations may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to these measures, which are crucial in stopping the transmission of the illness on these units and ensuring the safety of our staff and patients.