



**Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Grant County**

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<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 03/02/2011</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT</b>
TO: Healthcare providers, hospitals, and long term care facilities	Lois Swenson, RN PHN 509-766-7960 x13

**Increase in Norovirus-Like Illnesses in Grant County**

The Grant County Health District communicable disease and infection control nurse is receiving increased reports of norovirus-like illnesses in a Grant County long term care facility. If your facility is seeing an increase in norovirus-like illnesses contact Lois Swenson at 509-766-7960 extension 13. Please take a moment to review the following norovirus documents and web sites.

**CDC Norovirus in Healthcare Facilities Fact Sheet** (pdf file) – Symptoms, transmission, testing, infection control and environmental disinfection. [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/gastro/downloads/noro-hc-facilities-fs-508.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/gastro/downloads/noro-hc-facilities-fs-508.pdf)

**Prevention of Norovirus in Long Term Care Facilities – CDC**

[www.cdc.gov/HAI/organisms/norovirus.html](http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/organisms/norovirus.html)

In a healthcare facility, patients with suspected norovirus may be placed in private rooms or share rooms with other patients with the same infection. Additional prevention measures in healthcare facilities can decrease the chance of coming in contact with noroviruses:

- Follow hand-hygiene guidelines and carefully wash of hands with soap and water after contact with patients with norovirus infection.
- Use gowns and gloves when in contact with, or caring for patients who are symptomatic with norovirus.
- Routinely clean and disinfect high touch patient surfaces and equipment with an Environmental Protection Agency-approved product with a label claim for norovirus.
- Remove and wash contaminated clothing or linens.
- Healthcare workers who have symptoms consistent with norovirus should be excluded from work.