

NEWSLETTER

for Brown County Long-Term Care Facilities

Winter 2026

In this edition:

1. Preventing Spread During Acute GI Outbreak
2. Responding to Respiratory Disease Outbreak
3. Reporting Outbreaks to Public Health
4. Flyer to share with residents and visitors

Prevent Spread During an Acute Gastrointestinal Outbreak

1. Restrict residents' activities until 48 hours of resolution of last symptom
2. If any resident is getting transferred out of unit (including hospital), facility should notify all involved parties regardless if the resident is experiencing symptoms
3. Exclude ill staff from resident care and food services until the employee is asymptomatic and free of diarrhea/vomiting for 48 hours

Brown County Public Health is trying something new! Quarterly newsletters for Long-Term Care Facilities

We appreciate all you do for our community and the ongoing partnerships we have with you and would like to share helpful, up to date resources and information through these newsletters.

We can also be available to come to your facility and discuss best reporting practices or present information on best practices to help prevent and deal with outbreaks.

Send us topic suggestions or questions!

Email: bc.health.public.ltcf@browncountywi.gov

Call us: 920-448-6400

Responding to Respiratory Disease Outbreaks

1. Use signage of infection prevention practices for visitors.
2. Residents with:
 - a. **Influenza** should be placed on Standard & Droplet precautions for either 7 days after onset or 24 hours of resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer.
 - b. **COVID-19** should be placed on Standard, Contact, & Airborne precautions (keep door closed as much as possible) for at least 10 days since the first symptom appeared, and at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medications, and symptoms have improved.
 - c. **RSV** should be placed on Standard & Contact precautions for 24 hours after resolution of fever without use of fever-reducing medications and without respiratory symptoms.
3. If a staff member gets sick, they can return to work once 3 full days from symptom onset or day of positive test is over, symptoms are improving without the use of fever-reducing medications, and the staff member feels well enough to work.



Public Health
Brown County
Health & Human Services

"How to Report to BCPH" on back

How to Report to Brown County Public Health

1. Visit StayHealthyBC.com

Once you are on StayHealthyBC.com, go to the “Partners” tab, and click on Long-Term Care Facility

2. Determine if your facility has an Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI) or Acute Gastroenteric (AGE) Outbreak

AGE Outbreak Case Definition: 3 or more residents/staff from the same unit/wing with AGE symptoms within 72 hours of each other

ARI Outbreak Case Definition (including COVID-19, influenza, and RSV): 3 or more residents/staff from the same unit/wing with 2 or more ARI symptoms within 72 hours

3. Fill out report form

4. Fill out appropriate line list

Please make sure you are separating staff and residents. It helps to determine the scale of the outbreak.

5. Email both report form and line list(s) to:

bc.health.public.ltcf@browncountywi.gov or fax to (920) 448-6449

In the subject line, include facility name with suspect outbreak type. If staff gets approval from WI DHS, BCPH staff member will reach out for testing accommodations.

6. The line list should be maintained in real time so it can be used for management of outbreak

7. A final line list should be sent to BCPH in 14 days for all outbreaks

**Acute Respiratory Infection symptoms: fever >100°F or 2 degrees above baseline, cough, nasal congestion, myalgia, sore throat. *Acute Gastrointestinal symptoms: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramping, fever, chills*

Find out more by visiting:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p0/p00653.pdf>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/respiratory/outbreak.htm>

<https://www.StayHealthyBC.com>



Public Health
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Stay Healthy!



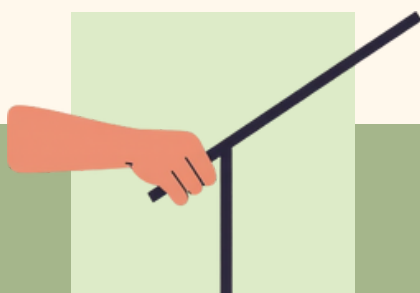
Wash hands after using the bathroom

Norovirus causes you to spend a lot of time in the bathroom- avoid it by washing your hands for at least 20 seconds when you use the bathroom.



Use Soap and Water!

The dreaded Norovirus- which causes vomiting & diarrhea is not killed by hand sanitizer!! Use soap and water!!



Caution with shared surfaces

That handrail is very handy, but it might also be full of things we don't want to share. Wash hands after touching.



Stay Healthy

Eat healthy!
Drink water!
Get enough sleep! Do what you can to stay healthy!