

CD Tip of the Month: Norovirus

Tip 1: All testing will be done in Lansing - until further notice

Due to a software analysis problem across the state, regional laboratories have suspended norovirus testing. All samples must be sent to the Bureau of Laboratories in Lansing until further notice. Please know how your jurisdiction transports samples to Lansing (i.e., courier, USPS, or FedEx) should they need to go that route.

Tip 2: Testing is important

We are seeing an increasing amount of outbreaks that could be characterized as viral, but are negative for norovirus. It is important to understand what is circulating in our communities. Please continue to consider testing for viral gastroenteritis outbreaks. The more we learn and understand how these viruses are transmitted and distributed, the better and more targeted our prevention and control measures become. The decision to conduct testing is made on a case by case basis and depends on multiple factors.

Tip 3: Norovirus testing requests

If you are considering testing, please contact the MDCH Bureau of Epidemiology (517-335-8165) before samples are submitted to Lansing as prior approval is needed. The reason for the approval process is so the lab does not become overwhelmed with requests and that the testing request matches the suspected etiology. Norovirus testing can run upwards of \$200 per sample. Samples that arrive to the lab that have not been cleared by Bureau of Epidemiology will not be tested.

Tip 4: Epidemiological Information to collect

If you're calling to report an outbreak and/or considering testing, please provide the following information to MDCH: name and city of facility/party/venue, number of residents/patrons/students and staff/employees who are ill, overall population of the facility/party/venue, symptoms experienced, onset dates, and duration of symptoms.

Tip 5: Resources on the HAN

Additional norovirus materials such as guidelines, factsheets, and tips, can be found in the Norovirus Resources folder on the HAN. The folder can be reached via the following path:

Document Library : Documents : State of Michigan Agencies : Department of Community Health : Epidemiology : CD Surveillance Info : Norovirus Resources