



James A. Barcia
Bay County Executive



Joel R. Strasz
Public Health Officer

1200 Washington Avenue
Bay City, Michigan 48708

(989) 895-4003
FAX (989) 895-4014
TDD (989) 895-4049
www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

TO: LOCAL MEDIA SOURCES

FROM: JOEL R. STRASZ, HEALTH OFFICER

DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2018

RE: **INCREASED OCCURRENCE OF NOROVIRUS PROMPTS CALL FOR GOOD HYGIENE**

The Bay County Health Department, in response to recent increases in gastroenteritis associated with Norovirus, encourages residents to practice good hand washing techniques to help stop a countywide increase in Norovirus cases. Persons working in day-care centers, schools or nursing homes should pay special attention to children or residents who have symptoms of norovirus. The virus can spread quickly in these types of facilities.

Norovirus is sometimes called the “stomach flu”, but is not related to influenza (the flu), which is a respiratory viral illness that causes fever, cough, chills, headache, muscle aches, runny nose, and sore throat. Noroviruses, a group of viruses that can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cramping and lowgrade fever, can be spread through hand to mouth contact, direct person-to-person contact, or by contact with contaminated objects or surfaces.

One of the best ways to prevent the spread of Noroviruses is to wash hands vigorously with warm running water and soap, using friction for at least 20 seconds. Hands should be dried with paper towels. This should be done several times throughout the day – especially when exposure to contaminated areas is known or suspected. Surfaces or objects contaminated with Noroviruses can be easily disinfected by cleaning with a chlorine bleach and water solution.

For additional information, please contact the Bay County Health Department at (989) 895-4006 or visit us on the web at <http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/health/CommunicableDisease.aspx> .

cc: James A. Barcia, Bay County Executive
Environmental Health Division Staff
File(s)