

Notice to **patients and families**

Norovirus outbreak at KGH

Kingston General Hospital is currently managing an outbreak of Norovirus localized to a single inpatient unit. Over the past 48 hours, a number of patients with suspected Norovirus have been identified.

Our staff is taking all necessary precautions to manage the outbreak, stop further spread of the Norovirus and manage new patients which require admission to the hospital. Patients with confirmed or suspected cases have been isolated and are being treated accordingly. Additionally, steps to contain the outbreak include the use of rigorous infection control precautions, environmental and equipment cleaning protocols and vigilant hand hygiene practices.

Family members and visitors to KGH can help minimize the spread of influenza by following these guidelines while at KGH:

What you can do

- **Delay your visit if you are feeling unwell in any way or have had a fever within the last 72 hours;**
- **Clean your hands every time you enter and exit the hospital;**
- **Clean your hands before entering and upon exiting a patient's room;**
- **Follow all infection control precautions if the patient you are visiting is identified as needing them – you can ask a member of the health-care team for assistance or clarification;**

Norovirus is spread by direct contact with contaminated hands of an affected individual or by contact with contaminated objects (e.g. door knobs) and then touching your mouth. Although the virus is easily spread, serious illness is rare. The most common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps or diarrhea. Fever is usually low grade or absent.

For more information on Norovirus, please visit the Ministry of Health website at: www.health.gov.on.ca.