

October 3, 2022

SUSPECTED NOROVIRUS OUTBREAK

To: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, and Midwives
Hospital Infection Control Departments and Emergency Departments

What we know so far regarding the Hearty Temiskaming Lunch

A number of lunches were distributed throughout the district on Thursday, September 29th, which included ham, roast beef and egg. Preliminary investigation suggests the source of illness is linked to something contained within the ham sandwich bag.

Symptoms

The most common causative agent for foodborne illness outbreaks is Norovirus which primarily causes vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, and fever. Symptoms may present between 12 and 48 hours after exposure and people generally recover within 1 to 3 days. At present, norovirus is the most likely cause of this outbreak and confirmatory testing is pending.

Patients should continue to isolate until they have been 48hrs symptom-free of vomiting and diarrhea.

Testing

Patients presenting with gastro symptoms, specifically ongoing diarrhea, who consumed food items from the Temiskaming Hearty lunch should be considered for a [viral stool collection](#) in addition to usual stool for C&S and O&P. The regular orange top specimen container can be used for the viral stool collection. Please ensure the PHOL test requisition is complete and specifies stool for viral testing.

Specimens collected should be linked to the following outbreak number: 2263-2022-00015.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Timiskaming Health Unit:

Monday to Friday

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

New Liskeard

Tel: (705) 647-4305

Toll Free: (866) 747-4305

Fax: (705) 647-5779

Kirkland Lake

Tel: (705) 567-9355

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After-Hours or Weekend

On-Call Number

(705) 647-3033

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