

Noroviruses

Childcare centres

The following control measures are recommended in childcare centres during norovirus outbreaks:

- Everyone (staff and children) should wash their hands:
 - on arrival
 - after going to the toilet
 - before eating or handling food
 - after a nappy change (including infant's hands)
 - before departing.
- Provide adequate supplies of soap and disposable paper towels to wipe hands. Children's handwashing should be supervised to ensure it is done properly.
- Children/staff with vomiting or diarrhoea should not attend the centre and should not return until 48 hours after the last vomit or the last runny bowel motion.
- Any child who becomes unwell with vomiting, diarrhoea or tummy pains while at the centre should immediately be isolated from other children, collected by a parent, and referred to the Resort Nurse.
- Review the centre's cleaning procedures. Ensure at least daily cleaning of bathrooms, toilets, toys, mattress covers and surfaces children have frequent contact with. Cleaning should be done with hot water and detergent. Toys must be disinfected daily following washing during the gastro outbreak.
- Review the centre's infection control practices including nappy changing procedures and procedures for dealing with spills of faeces or vomit.
- Ensure any food preparation is done hygienically on clean surfaces well away from any toileting or nappy changing area.
- Provide clean linen for each child - single use only (ie. bed sheets, bibs, wash cloths).
- Remember that children who are infectious do not always have symptoms. Ensure good hygiene measures at all times.

For more information: *Staying Healthy in Child Care* (Australian Government Publishing Service)

For more information, please contact your nearest Tropical Population Health Unit:

Cairns
4050 3600

Townsville
47539000

Mackay
49686611

Mt Isa
4744 4404