Norovirus

San Diego County

Department of Environmental Health
Norovirus outbreaks at all-time high nationwide

CDC blames cruise illness on norovirus (over 1500 sick)

Howard Dicus  Pacific Business News

Workers disinfect virus-laden Disney cruise ship -- again (218 Sick)

Norwalk Virus Sickened Reno Volleyball Players (dozens of teenage girls sick) 4/03
Overview

- What is Norovirus?
- Transmission
- Symptoms
- Treatment
- Prevention
Norovirus

- Formerly called Norwalk-like Virus
- Highly contagious
- Cause of 50% of all foodborne outbreaks of gastroenteritis
- Able to survive freezing and high temperatures
Transmission

- Fecal-oral route
- Indirect contact with the virus on contaminated surfaces.
- Via contaminated food and water
- Shellfish from sewage contaminated water
Symptoms

Symptoms usually start within 24 to 48 hours after exposure.

- Vomiting
- Watery diarrhea
- Stomach Cramping.
- Low grade fever occurs in half of cases
Treatment

There is no specific treatment.

Persons with diarrhea and/or vomiting should drink plenty of liquids to prevent dehydration.

Medications, including antibiotics (which have no effect on viruses) and other treatments, should be avoided unless specifically recommended by a physician.
Prevention

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Promptly disinfect contaminated surfaces with household chlorine bleach-based cleaners.
- Wash soiled clothing.
- Avoid food or water from sources that may be contaminated.
- Cook shellfish completely to kill the virus.
Prevention

Children in daycare, health care workers, or people who handle food should not go to school or work while they have diarrhea.
Sites for further information

www.cdc.gov
www.fda.gov
Contact Information

Reportable Illness
Health and Human Services Agency
(619) 515-6620

Suspect Food borne Illness
Dept of Environmental Health
(619) 338-2356 or fhdutyeh@sdcounty.ca.gov

Presentation May 2003