

November 15, 2011

### **AGE Cluster Tiered Response for LTC**

The proposed tiered response will guide both the CD section and LHDs. It is aimed at increasing efficiency of a response through involvement of different programs at different levels and providing threshold for different levels of response. It will also increase communication between LHDs, CD, and other programs involved in the response, during the investigation.

**Level 1: Trigger** – Recognition of an acute viral gastroenteritis outbreak in an LTC.

#### **Response -**

1. The LHD will report the outbreak to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) - Communicable Disease (CD) section and obtain an outbreak number. This can be done through phone call or electronic means (once available).
2. IDPH will assign the outbreak number and supply guidance to the LHD and the electronic facility linelist form OR the LHD will obtain a copy of an up-to-date guidance and an electronic facility linelist form.
3. The LHD will assist the facility in applying the recommendations in the guidance, including determination if kitchen inspection is warranted.
4. The LHD will obtain no more than five specimens for testing; send the specimens to the appropriate IDPH lab accompanied by properly filled requisition forms, indicating the outbreak number.
5. IDPH will notify the Division of LTC and the labs of an outbreak and possible testing needs.
6. If the outbreak and investigation is finished without meeting the trigger for level 2, submit a non-foodborne non-waterborne final report form no later than 30 days after the onset of the last case.

**Level 2: Trigger** – **One** or more of the following criteria is met

- The percentage of ill is higher than the calculated average of 25% of LTC's census.
- Continuous transmission of the disease as shown by ongoing occurrence of new cases for more than 14 days after the first onset with no new case onset lag time of more than 96 hours (two incubation periods). This is based on the average outbreak durations of 12.5 days.
- $\geq 2$  hospitalizations due to AGE
- Death of a case included in the outbreak.

#### **Response –**

1. Continue level 1 activities
2. IDPH will follow up on having the LHD assist the facility with disease control recommendations in the guidance.
3. LHDs will submit regular updates of the electronic linelist. The regularity of the updates will depend on the size of the outbreak and will be determined by IDPH staff.

**Level 3: Trigger** – **One** of more of the following criteria is met

- $\geq 2$  peaks of disease occurrence in the epi curve or multiple outbreaks in the same facility within 12 months.
- $\geq 3$  deaths of cases included in the outbreak.
- Finding of unusual type of virus (e.g., sapovirus) or common virus (e.g. rotavirus) that does not usually cause illness in this population. OR multiple negative laboratory findings in a facility with multiple outbreaks within a 12 months.

#### **Response –**

1. Continue level 1 and 2 activities
2. Office of Health Care Regulation Division of Long Term Care will be notified that the outbreak has not been curtailed and regulatory actions may need to occur.
3. The CDC will be involved either through specimen testing, consultation, or investigation.