

Norovirus (Norwalk Virus)

Hazards: Norovirus (Norwalk Virus) is the most common cause of gastroenteritis, characterized by non-bloody diarrhea, vomiting, and stomach pain. Fever and/or headaches may also occur. Infection usually resolves on its own but may last longer in the elderly and immunocompromised.

Risks: Transmission occurs through direct contact with infected individuals, the fecal-oral route, through contact with contaminated surfaces and objects, and through the ingestion of contaminated food or water. The greatest risk of exposure is during cage changes where there is contact with contaminated bedding and cages.

Precautions: Wear PPE during cage changes (gloves, gown, and booties). Use a biosafety cabinet during cage changes. Follow ABSL-2 procedures for bedding disposal. Wash hands after work.

Emergency Response: If you are working in this area and develop symptoms, tell your supervisor and report to Occupational Medicine. Potential exposures and illnesses must be reported to EHRS by your supervisor or manager.