

COULD THIS BE AN **OUTBREAK?**

RESPIRATORY OUTBREAKS	GASTROINTESTINAL OUTBREAKS
<p>Three cases of acute respiratory infection within 48 hours on one unit/floor</p> <p>OR</p> <p>More than two units/floors having one case of acute respiratory infection within 48 hours</p> <p><u>What is an acute respiratory infection?</u></p> <p>Symptoms suggestive of an <u>acute</u> respiratory infection, that are <u>otherwise unexplained</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runny nose or sneezing • Stuffy nose • Sore throat/hoarseness/difficulty swallowing • Dry cough, or new/worsening cough • Swollen/tender neck glands • Fever or chills • Tiredness • Muscle aches/headache • Loss of appetite 	<p>Three or more cases of gastroenteritis on one floor/unit within a four day period</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Three or more units/floors having one case of gastroenteritis within 48 hours</p> <p><u>What is gastroenteritis?</u></p> <p>Two or more episodes of loose/watery bowel movements <u>that cannot be attributed to another cause</u> within a 24 hour period</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Two or more episodes of vomiting within a 24 hour period</p> <p>OR</p> <p>One episode of loose/watery bowel movement and one episode of vomiting within a 24 hour period</p>

If it looks like you may have an outbreak, or if you are unsure:

- During regular working hours (Monday-Friday), call your local NWHU Infectious Disease Nurse or Public Health Inspector
- After hours, call the NWHU 24-hour hotline at 1-866-475-6505
- Notify your facility Infection Control Practitioner

Institutions are mandated to report suspected as well as confirmed outbreaks.

For further information, refer to the "Control of Respiratory/Gastrointestinal Outbreaks in Long Term Care Homes" guidance document from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.