

Outbreak Headache CQI Scenario 3

Residents and staff throughout the facility are currently experiencing gastrointestinal distress including nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. You were first alerted to the problem one week ago. Since that time 22 cases have been identified in your 120-bed facility.

1. How would you go about investigating the problem?
2. What are the possible causal factors?
3. What do you need to know to determine if there is an outbreak?
4. What temporary infection control measures could you put in place until the source of the outbreak is determined?
5. What information should be included in surveillance data for this issue?
6. What education should be provided the staff and residents?
7. What outside resources are available to help you with this challenge?
8. Develop an infection control plan that incorporates your ideas and concerns.