



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

December 30, 2009

B3 Enteric Outbreak – Unknown cause

There have been an increased number of patients and staff experiencing enteric symptoms (vomiting and/or diarrhea) on PRHC's B3 unit. An Enteric Outbreak has been declared on that unit.

Family and visitors to that floor have been advised that, presently, the floor is closed to visiting.

No other programs or services at PRHC are affected in any way.

Several additional patient control measures have been put into place on B3 for the duration of this outbreak, including:

- No admissions, transfers or discharges to long term care facilities. (Patients may be discharged home from the unit directly.)
- All identified cases are placed on "Contact Precautions". All patients on Contact Precautions are to remain in their room unless where medically indicated.
- Twice day environmental cleaning of Contact Precautions rooms and the entire unit are underway.

As always, when visiting the hospital, hand hygiene remains one of the most important infection prevention and control practices to stop transmission of infectious diseases.

The outbreak will very likely be able to be declared over if, in a 4 day period, no new cases have been identified. However, this is also dependent on the number of symptomatic patients and the causative agent (if identified).

Enteric Outbreaks are not unexpected at this time of year and several other local facilities are also presently experiencing them. Please contact the Health Unit for more information on other facilities.

Signs on B3 are posted alerting the public to the restriction of visiting. Further public updates will be posted on an as needed basis.

For questions or concerns, please contact:

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