

NOROVIRUS

FACT SHEET

WHAT IS NOROVIRUS

Norovirus is a highly contagious virus that can cause a person's digestive system to become inflamed. Norovirus is sometimes referred to as "food poisoning" or the "stomach flu." Although it can cause food poisoning, it is not caused by the influenza virus.

Learn more: ecolab.com/norovirus

#1 Norovirus is the **LEADING CAUSE OF** **FOODBORNE ILLNESS** **OUTBREAKS** IN THE U.S.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/pdfs/foodborne-outbreaks-annual-report-2014-508.pdf>

SYMPTOMS OCCUR WITHIN 24 HOURS

Source: Center for Disease Control

- Severe vomiting & diarrhea
- Low-grade fever & chills
- Nausea
- Headache or muscle aches

The amount of virus particles that **fit on the head of a pin** are enough to infect

+1,000 PEOPLE

Source: Journal of Medical Virology, August, 2008



Norovirus can spread **BEFORE** and **AFTER** symptoms are present

Source: Center for Disease Control

HARD TO KILL:

- **Survives** on surfaces and utensils for **weeks**
- Can **remain infectious** in food at freezing temperatures and even in some cooked foods
- Can **resist** many common **disinfectants** and **sanitizers**

Source: NACMCF.2016.JFP 79(5):843

HOW NOROVIRUS ENTERS A RESTAURANT



EMPLOYEES



CUSTOMERS



FOOD CONTAMINATED
AT ITS SOURCE

FOODS TYPICALLY IMPLICATED INCLUDE SALADS AND SANDWICHES OR OTHER READY-TO-EAT ITEMS, OR RAW OYSTERS HARVESTED FROM SEWAGE-CONTAMINATED GROWING WATERS.

Source: Center for Disease Control



HOW NOROVIRUS SPREADS

Noroviruses are found in feces or vomit of infected people and can be spread easily.



CONSUMING
CONTAMINATED FOOD OR DRINK



TOUCHING
CONTAMINATED PEOPLE, OBJECTS OR SURFACES



BREATHING
AIRBORNE VIRUS PARTICLES

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