

When Employees Work Sick Public Health is Jeopardized



1 DEAD 861 infected	North Carolina • The North Carolina Division of Public Health received 17 reports of outbreaks clinically and epidemiologically consistent with norovirus infection among residents of long-term care facilities. A total of 573 residents and 288 staff members were affected in the 17 outbreaks and 36 patients required hospitalization. One patient died in association with the outbreaks. The outbreaks were clearly preceded by illness among food handlers and staff members in six of the 17 long-term--care facilities.
1,200+ infected	Las Vegas • Over 1,200 guests and workers at the Flamingo hotel in Las Vegas were reported to have suffered Norovirus infections. A Nevada jury concluded that the outbreak could have been prevented by an appropriate sick leave policy, and imposed \$25 million in damages on the affected hotel.
679 infected	Trans-Atlantic • 679 (17%) out of 3,970 passengers and crew members aboard the trans-Atlantic Carnival Cruise Lines' Carnival Liberty, one of the world's largest cruise ships, contracted the norovirus.
550 infected	Beverly Hills, California • Los Angeles County health officials traced the source of a Norovirus outbreak that hit the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Scientific and Technical Awards in 2002. At least 550 guests at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Los Angeles became ill with Norovirus infections after consuming foods catered by the hotel kitchen.
500 at risk	Port Washington, New York • Nassau County health officials received more than 500 calls from people who had eaten from one of three Shish-Kebab Restaurants, reporting diarrhea, stomach pain and other symptoms of shigellosis, a highly contagious gastrointestinal illness. Infected workers were linked as the likely origin of the outbreak.
364 infected	Lansing, Michigan • A Carraba's restaurant worker who did not have paid sick days came to work with the stomach flu and infected over 364 customers. The widespread outbreak sickened residents of at least three states.
344 infected	Massachusetts • Patients and staff fell ill at the VA Boston Healthcare System, McLean Hospital and Hebrew Rehabilitation Center, where 225 residents and 119 staff members became sick.
180 infected	Kent, Ohio • Chipotle Mexican Grill reopens after 180 report getting sick.
125 infected	Grand Rapids, Michigan • The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) became aware of an apparent foodborne illness outbreak after individuals that had ordered and eaten sandwiches from a Blimpie's restaurant reported becoming ill. By the conclusion of the investigation approximately 125 people had become ill with the Norovirus.
100 at risk	Hicksville, New York • A kitchen worker at Mama Sbarro's pizzeria contracted typhoid fever, putting over 100 customers at risk for the potentially deadly bacterial infection, according to the Nassau County Department of Health. Although cases can be treated with specific antibiotics; the fatality rate for those who don't get antibiotic treatment is about 20 percent.

