

Fifty-Seven cruise ship vacationers ill with Norovirus on Grand Princess



"Everybody look at me 'cause I'm puking off a boat!"

A Princess Cruises ship, the Grand Princess, has recently been linked to a second consecutive outbreak of Norovirus affecting 57 of the 2,468 passengers on-board. As a control measure, and to the dismay of vacationers, passengers were restricted to their cabins to prevent the further spread of the virus. According to The Daily Echo a passenger was cited as saying, "I have gone through feeling sorry for myself – now I'm ...angry," Reportedly the passenger was spending \$86 per day for medical treatment on the ship, on top of the \$4,300 he spent on the vacation.

"It was supposed to be a dream holiday but it's turned into a nightmare. People are dropping like flies." -- Grand Princess passenger David Greenslade

Close living quarters on cruise ships cause an increase in person-to-person contact which helps increase the spread of Norovirus. Good sanitation and effective cleaning of vomit can reduce the risk of spread.

Norovirus Facts...

- Many hand sanitizers are of limited effectiveness at reducing norovirus on hands.
- Viral shedding (passing of the virus in poop) can sometimes occur for 3 weeks after vomiting symptoms have resolved.
- Norovirus can persist on common kitchen surfaces for 3 to 6 weeks.
- Some norovirus infections occur without symptoms.

To control the spread of Norovirus, use the proper tools when cleaning up vomit. Tools include disposable latex gloves, a filter mask, and apron. Pathogens can be aerosolized in vomit and be spread outside visually affected areas.

When cleaning up vomit:

- wipe the spill with paper towels and dispose of the towels in bags;
- pour bleach solution or other disinfectant intended to kill pathogens on and around the area;
- let solution act for 20 minutes;
- wipe the remaining solution and mop the area;
- all disposable material should be discarded in plastic bags;
- nondisposable material should be bleached and air-dried; and,
- double-bag and tie up plastic garbage bags and discard.

