

*Over 50
norovirus
illnesses
linked to ill
food handlers*

Mankato, MN
civic center
catering company
linked to virus
outbreak at two
separate events



Investigators trace outbreak to multiple food handlers who were ill

Health officials in Minnesota say that ill food service workers were the source of a norovirus outbreak that sickened up to 50 people who ate at Mankato civic center events. The outbreak has been linked to a single catering company operating out of the civic center.

The majority of illnesses were connected to one event, the Greater Mankato Growth banquet which was attended by more than 460 people. There were also reports of further illnesses connected to a second event the next day.

Department of Health officials conducted an intervention with the food service provider that included reminders of protocols to follow when employees become ill following the outbreak.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NOROVIRUS

- Don't handle food while ill; especially if you have symptoms like diarrhea (when transmission is likely) or vomiting (as virus particles may be spread to hands, clothes and other surfaces).
- Some norovirus infections occur without symptoms
- Infected people can shed large amounts of norovirus in their poop and vomit
- Norovirus can persist on common kitchen surfaces for up to 6 weeks
- Some hand sanitizers are not effective at reducing norovirus on hands