UR Communications

April 14, 2016

University Health Service (UHS) reports the total number of students from River Campus and the Eastman School of Music presenting cases of Norovirus-like symptoms over the past several days is 95, up 8 since yesterday evening’s email message. Again, individuals reporting these symptoms are largely on River Campus, with 3 reported cases at the Eastman School of Music to date.

With Dandelion Day on Friday, a number of modifications have been made to contain the spread of Norovirus. These changes are in addition to the sanitization work being performed across River Campus and at the Eastman School of Music, which will continue until further notice.

Dandelion Day Updates:

- All of the amusement rides will receive disinfecting wash-downs of the ride bars and seats at 15 minute intervals. Organizers are being extra vigilant about all of the Dandelion Day activity areas being cleaned frequently.
- Outdoor handwashing stations have been added for all attendees to use and will be located near the rides and food areas.
- Most of the foods and beverages available outside will be prepackaged. The visiting food trucks will follow their normal food handling protocol that includes wearing gloves and preparing the food for the customer.

Important Dandelion Day Precautions:

- Continue with frequent hand washing using soap and water. This is the best way to avoid infection. No hand sanitizer is effective against Norovirus.
- Do not share food or beverage with anyone.
- Do not join in Dandelion Day activities if you have experienced this illness and it has not been at least 48 hours since the symptoms have ended.
- Assume that all vomit contains the Norovirus. If you see an area of campus that needs immediate cleaning and disinfection as a result of someone being sick/vomiting, immediately call the University Facilities Customer Service line at 273-4567, which has staff ready 24 hours a day during this time.
- We know that the Norovirus particles can live on surfaces for weeks, and live in all temperatures. The recommendations for not contracting the Norovirus need to be practiced both indoors and outside in the fresh air.
- Clean the spaces where you will be congregating. Repeated and daily cleaning using the Clorox Germicidal wipes, which are proven to be very effective against the Norovirus, will limit the spread of the virus particles on surfaces. Additional cleaning agents that specifically list “bleach” as an ingredient also kill the Norovirus.
Much work has been done in an attempt to identify the source of this illness outbreak and there are absolutely no indications that it started with food or any of the dining facilities. The University is continuing to work with the Monroe County Public Health Department to determine a source.

Students who develop nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea should follow standard self-care guidelines: do not put anything in your stomach for 2 hours after vomiting, then start drinking clear liquids such as ginger ale or a sports drink. If you’re feeling lightheaded, have a high fever, see blood in the vomit or diarrhea, have abdominal pain or still have symptoms after 48 hours, call UHS at 585-275-2662. This number is answered at all times; a physician is on call when the office is not open.