



Clark County Health District • Public Information Office • 625 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89106 • 385-1291

Norovirus - Public Health Update

Update on the norovirus outbreak associated with the California Hotel and Casino

March 15, 2004

The Clark County Health District today issued a revised cumulative total for the number of gastrointestinal illness complaints pertaining to a norovirus outbreak associated with the California Hotel and Casino in Downtown Las Vegas. Increased media coverage of the outbreak, particularly in Hawaii, prompted additional hotel/casino customers to report illnesses that had been previously unreported during December, January and February. The updated total of gastrointestinal illness complaints from December 3, 2003 through March 12, 2004 is 1,174.

Though the cumulative numbers have risen, a slight decline in the number of complaints of new illness occurring March 5 through March 12 was observed over the preceding one week period. Seventy-four persons reported illness beginning March 5, 2004 or later. The decline in new cases is encouraging. However, it is not uncommon in norovirus outbreaks for a decline to be followed by a resurgence. Therefore, the Clark County Health District Office of Epidemiology will classify the norovirus outbreak associated with the California Hotel Casino as over when a sustained decline has been observed for a period of one month.

The health district reminds guests of any hotel to promptly report incidents of illness to the hotel housekeeping or general staff. Areas affected by vomiting and/or diarrhea must be properly cleaned and disinfected to protect others from getting ill.

Contacts: David Tonelli
(702) 383-6320

####