

## Norovirus - Public Health Update #2

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

March 22, 2004

The Clark County Health District today issued updated totals for the number of gastrointestinal illness complaints pertaining to a norovirus outbreak associated with the California Hotel and Casino in Downtown Las Vegas. A team of communicable disease specialists from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention arrived in Las Vegas late last week to assist the health district with its investigation into this outbreak.

The health district is compiling the number of gastrointestinal illness complaints from several sources: Boyd Gaming (corporate owner of the California Hotel) security reports forwarded to the health district by the company, direct public reports to the health district, hospital reports and doctor's office reports. The numbers represent people who visited or stayed at the California Hotel after December 3, 2003, and complained of becoming ill with vomiting and/or diarrhea either during or immediately following their visit.

**Total Cases:**

<u>Illness Onset</u>	<u>Health District Composite</u>	<u>Boyd Security Subset</u>
December 3, 2003 - March 21, 2004	1,475	346

**Breakdown by month:**

<u>Illness Onset</u>	<u>Health District Composite</u>	<u>Boyd Security Subset</u>
December, 2003	178	39
January, 2004	412	73
February, 2004	616	121
March, 2004 (partial)	269	113

**Breakdown by week (updated):**

<u>Illness Onset</u>	<u>Health District Composite</u>	<u>Boyd Security Subset</u>
February 27 - March 4	173	48
March 5 - 12	103	38
March 13 - 19	50	33

(more)

The norovirus outbreak associated with the California Hotel has peaked and declined several times. The Clark County Health District Office of Epidemiology will classify the current outbreak as over when a sustained decline to baseline levels (an average of 2 – 3 illness complaints per week) has been observed for a period of one month (the amount of time noroviruses can survive on environmental surfaces).

Late last week, the health district received test results that indicated the presence of norovirus in the stool of three ill people who recently stayed or visited the California Hotel. Two of the three samples were tested at the Hawaii State Public Health Laboratory; one sample was tested at the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory.

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. Additionally, the health district reminds ill persons they are considered infectious until three days after their symptoms have resolved. Appropriate sanitation and personal hygiene should be observed even after an ill person begins to feel better.

Complaints of illness in connection with the current outbreak may be reported to the Clark County Health District Office of Epidemiology at (702) 383-1378.

Additional information on noroviruses is available on the health district web site at <http://www.cchd.org/download/epi/norovirus.pdf> and on the CDC web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/gastro/norovirus.htm>.

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