Recognising and managing a gastroenteritis outbreak flow chart

Task	What to do
Gastroenteritis outbreak identified?	An outbreak of gastroenteritis is when two or more people in the same facility become ill with vomiting and/or diarrhoea within a 24 hour period (above the usual number of cases in the facility)
Activate your gastroenteritis outbreak plan and confirm outbreak co-ordinator	Outbreak Coordinator: Name: _____ Phone: _____
Implement transmission-based infection control measures immediately	▪ Refer to Section 5 in the Guidelines ▪ Inform your **Infection Control Advisor** Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
Notify	▪ Inform your local **Population Health Unit** (PHU) by faxing *Initial referral form*; phone if requiring advice Name: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Monitor progress of outbreak daily	▪ Start *Case list form* ▪ Use separate forms for listing staff and residents
Collect specimens	▪ Refer to Section 4.6 in the guidelines ▪ Collect specimens immediately ▪ Ensure that the correct tests are requested
Update Population Health Unit (PHU)	**Each morning:** ▪ Complete a *Daily cumulative summary form* ▪ Fax *Daily cumulative summary form* to your PHU ▪ Fax laboratory results to PHU as soon as they arrive **Report sentinel events to your PHU and Office of Aged Care Quality and Compliance (OACQC) within 24 hours** ▪ **death of a resident or staff member who is part of the outbreak** ▪ **a sudden increase in number of cases over a 24 hour period** ▪ **greater than 50% of residents or greater than 20% of staff affected** ▪ **a pathology result that identifies specific enteric infection – See Appendix 5 for list** On weekends or public holidays only, report sentinel events to the Department of Health on 9328 0553. OACQC phone 1800 550552
END OF OUTBREAK	When no episodes of vomiting or diarrhoea for at least 48 hours: ▪ Complete a *Final case summary form* ▪ Fax form to your PHU ▪ Evaluate management of the outbreak

For more information refer to the Guidelines for the management of gastroenteritis outbreaks in residential care facilities (2nd edition), Western Australian Department of Health, 2013, www.public.health.wa.gov.au