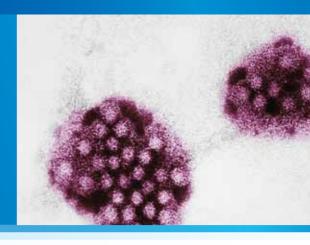
## **Norovirus**



### The highly contagious leading cause of stomach flu (gastroenteritis)<sup>1</sup>

#### What Is It?

Norovirus is a highly contagious virus that causes approximately 90% of epidemic nonbacterial outbreaks of gastroenteritis around the world.<sup>2</sup> It is often called by other names, such as stomach flu, viral gastroenteritis and food poisoning. Norovirus causes an estimated 23 million cases of gastroenteritis and 50,000 hospitalizations each year in the United States alone.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Symptoms and Treatment**

Norovirus causes the abrupt onset of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea that usually lasts one to two days. Symptoms appear 12–48 hours after exposure to the virus. Dehydration can be a problem among some people with norovirus infection, especially children, the elderly and people

with other illnesses. There is no specific cure for norovirus, but replacement of fluids to avoid dehydration is important.

#### **How Does Norovirus Spread?**

Norovirus affects people of all ages and is highly contagious. One can get the virus either by eating contaminated foods or liquids, touching contaminated surfaces and then putting hands in the mouth, or having direct contact with an infected person. Outbreaks are a particular problem among closed populations in tight quarters, such as schools, cruise ships and extended-care facilities.

## How Can I Help Prevent the Spread of Norovirus?

- Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces is an important part of controlling the spread of norovirus. Be sure to use a disinfectant registered as effective against norovirus by the Environmental Protection Agency, or a chlorine bleach solution with a concentration of 1,000–5,000 ppm.
- Practice proper hand hygiene.
  Wash hands carefully with soap and water, especially after using the toilet and changing diapers, and always before eating or preparing food. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing at least 62% alcohol are also effective.

# Studies have shown that norovirus can survive on contaminated surfaces for up to 12 days.<sup>4</sup>

- 1. Mayo Clinic, www.mayoclinic.com/health/stomach-flu/AN01758
- 2. Lindesmith L, Moe C, Marionneau S, et al. "Human susceptibility and resistance to Norwalk virus infection." Nat. Med. 2003; 9 (5): 548-53.
- 3. Mead PS, Slusker L, Dietz V, et al. "Food-related illness and death in the US." Emerging Infectious Diseases. 1999; 5: 607-625.
- 4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/hicpac/norovirus/tables/evidence-table-q3-ron.html

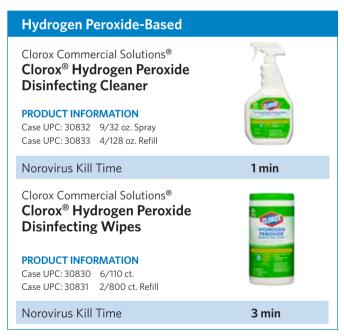


#### These Products Kill Norovirus\*

Clorox offers a full line of products that are effective against Norovirus on a variety of hard, nonporous surfaces.







<sup>\*</sup> Use as directed on hard, nonporous surfaces.

