**Notification Alert for Norovirus**

*The following notification alert is intended for health care and long-term care facilities experiencing a norovirus outbreak. The following template can be adapted for individual facility use.*

*Date*

Dear *Patients/Residents, Families, and Visitors*:

Our facility is currently working with the *Local Health Jurisdiction* to investigate a number of individuals at the facility who became ill with diarrhea or vomiting. We have identified the illness as norovirus. These viruses are found in the stool or vomit of infected people. Outbreaks of norovirus within health care facilities, long-term care facilities and other community settings are frequently reported every year. We are notifying you in an interest of public awareness and safety.

Individuals can become infected with norovirus through:

* Eating or drinking contaminated food or water
* Touching contaminated surfaces or objects
* Direct contact with other individuals who are infected with and showing signs and symptoms consistent with norovirus

Norovirus symptoms begin to show about 24 to 48 hours after exposure to norovirus. Tell your doctor if you are feeling sick. The best way to prevent norovirus is to wash your hands. Be sure to wash your hands after leaving this facility.

*Facility Name*has taken appropriate steps to control this outbreak. All facility employees are aware of the situation. Public health is working closely with staff to investigate the cause of those infections to prevent new infections. Due to this problem, the facility has strengthened all infection control measures. All staff members have been educated on strict hand washing.

For any questions regarding this notification alert please contact: *contact information*

Sincerely

*Name and title*