



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

December 6, 2004

Gastrointestinal infection detected at BC Children's Hospital

Vancouver, B.C. – A suspected noro-like virus has been detected at BC Children's Hospital. A total of 13 patients have had symptoms since Nov. 26, as well as 30 staff members. Symptoms typically present for 24 to 72 hours, and a number of affected patients and staff are now symptom free.

Admissions have been suspended to one inpatient ward. If your child requires immediate medical attention, it is still safe to bring them to BC Children's Hospital, including the Emergency Department.

As per protocol when three or more suspected cases are identified, Infection Control staff informed the Public Health Officer that BC Children's was declaring an outbreak on Nov. 30. All appropriate infection control measures are in place to stop the spread of this infection to other patients and other areas of the hospital, including isolation measures and extra cleaning procedures.

It is not possible at this time to identify the source of the infection. Infection Control measures for a gastrointestinal illness outbreak are consistent regardless of the source.

BC Children's Hospital, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, provides expert care for the province's most seriously ill or injured children, including newborns and adolescents. For more information please visit www.cw.bc.ca.

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) plans, manages and evaluates selected specialty and province-wide health care services across BC, working with the five geographic health authorities to deliver province-wide solutions that improve the health of British Columbians. For more information please visit www.phsa.ca.

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