Infection Control 101: Managing Illness, Outbreaks, and Hand Hygiene Fatality File



Norovirus Outbreak Leads to Temporary Room Closure

A U.S. childcare centre experienced a norovirus outbreak after several children developed vomiting and diarrhea over two days. Initial symptoms were not immediately isolated due to staffing pressure. Within 48 hours, multiple classrooms were affected, and several staff became ill.

Public health officials identified inconsistent handwashing and delayed exclusion as contributing factors. The centre temporarily closed affected rooms, increased cleaning protocols, and reinforced hygiene training.

The incident demonstrated how quickly illness spreads when early controls are missed—and how decisive action limits long-term disruption.