



Norovirus-like illness associated with The Greek House in Burien

AT-A-GLANCE

- **Cases:** 9
- **Hospitalizations:** 0
- **Deaths:** 0
- **Status:** Open
- **Locations:** The Greek House, 113 SW 153rd St, Burien, WA 98166
- **Meal dates:** September 4, 2019
- **Prior food safety inspections and current rating?**
 - **EXCELLENT**

Highlights

Updated September 20, 2019

Summary

Public Health investigated an outbreak of norovirus-like illness with vomiting, diarrhea, body aches, chills, and fever associated with The Greek House in Burien.

Illnesses

Since September 9, 2019, 9 people from two separate meal parties reported becoming ill after consuming food and beverage from The Greek House on September 4, 2019.

We did not identify how norovirus was spread within the restaurant. This is not uncommon for norovirus outbreaks because the virus can spread through multiple contaminated food items, environmental surfaces, and from person to person.

Public Health actions

Environmental Health investigators visited the restaurant on September 10, 2019. Investigators did not find any risk factors that are known to contribute to the spread of norovirus. No ill employees were identified. The restaurant was required to conduct a thorough cleaning and disinfection. Investigators will revisit the restaurant within two weeks to ensure ongoing compliance with proper food handling practices.

Laboratory testing

We do not have laboratory results for the people who got sick. Often in norovirus outbreaks, no laboratory testing is done. Symptoms among those who got sick are suggestive of norovirus.

 [Report possible foodborne illness](#)

About norovirus

- Norovirus is a highly contagious virus that frequently spreads person-to-person and is often associated with food. Norovirus illness often has a sudden onset of nausea and vomiting and/or watery diarrhea with cramps. A low-grade fever, chills, and body aches sometimes occur.
- Norovirus rarely causes severe complications. Dehydration is the most common complication, particularly among young children and the elderly. No vaccine is available for norovirus.



Prevention

General advice for reducing risk of contracting norovirus:

- Wash hands, cutting boards, and counters used for food preparation immediately after use to avoid cross-contamination of other foods. Wash hands thoroughly with soap after using the bathroom or changing diapers, and before preparing any food or eating. Wait at least 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting and/or diarrhea before preparing any food for others.
- Stay out of brackish or salt water if you have any wounds (including scrapes and cuts), or cover your wound with waterproof bandage to prevent a skin infection.
- Wash wounds and cuts with soap and water if they have been exposed to seawater or raw seafood and raw seafood juices, to prevent a skin infection.

More information about norovirus:

- [Norovirus facts](#), Public Health – Seattle & King County
- [Norovirus facts](#), Foodsafety.gov

 Link/share this page at www.kingcounty.gov/outbreak/greek-house

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