

# Two Norovirus outbreaks: Same food safety failure



## Food Safety Network Infosheet

### **Banquet hall outbreak infected at least 85 in Hamilton, ON. Canada**

The number of people infected by the norovirus outbreak at a Hamilton banquet hall has climbed to at least **85**. Hamilton's Medical Officer of Health, was cited as saying there are more cases, but public health officials have stopped interviewing infected people, so they can turn their attention towards preventing norovirus from spreading.

**It has already been confirmed that the norovirus was spread by an employee** who was working at the Piazza Banquet Centre, on Anchor Road. It's estimated that between 300 and 400 people may have come into contact with food from the banquet hall, between lunchtime on Nov. 14 and lunchtime on Nov. 17.

#### *What you can do:*

FOOD HANDLERS SHOULD WASH HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER, DRY WITH PAPER TOWELS AND NOT WORK WHEN ILL TO REDUCE THE CHANCE OF PASSING THE NORWALK VIRUS ON TO CUSTOMERS

NOROVIRUS OUTBREAK AT THE OPRYLAND HOTEL IN NASHVILLE, TENN., IN JANUARY 2001 SICKENED **811** PEOPLE, **SIX** REQUIRING MEDICAL CARE.

### **Dozens sickened after dining at restaurant near Des Moines, IA**



Health officials were cited as saying that at least **71** people who dined at a Johnston restaurant over the weekend became ill. The illnesses were tied to Trostel's Greenbriar Restaurant. The symptoms, which included nausea and

diarrhea, were consistent with norovirus, a highly contagious germ that often is spread through food. Investigators combed through the kitchen and dining areas, but found nothing wrong.

Restaurant owner Paul Trostel was quoted as saying, **"It is beyond our current knowledge how this happened. We just feel terrible."**

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, state epidemiologist, was cited as saying safe food-handling is crucial, adding, **"Anyone with diarrhea or vomiting in the last few days should not be handling any food items.** That rule is important no matter if you're cooking for two or 200, whether it's a regular family meal or holiday gathering or at a restaurant."