Reducing the Burden of Norovirus in Lane County Long-Term Care Facilities

Isabelle Simpson
Oregon Health & Science University, simpsois@ohsu.edu

Stacey McGarr
Oregon Health and Science University, mcgarr@ohsu.edu

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Unable to measure changes in prompt reporting by LTCFs

Reducing the Burden of Norovirus in Lane County Long-Term Care Facilities

Stacey McGarr and Isabelle Simpson

Objectives

- To develop resources related to norovirus outbreaks for long-term care facilities (LTCF)
- To increase knowledge of LTCF administrators about norovirus resources
- To increase prompt reporting of norovirus outbreaks by LTCFs to Lane County Public Health

Methodology

- Collaborated with Lane County Public Health to determine trial LTCFs and needs of the population
- Adapted Oregon Health Authority Norovirus Toolkit
- Developed a norovirus educational webinar
- Collected contact information of trial LTCFs
- Conducted in-person visits to educate trial LTCFs about norovirus resources, identify barriers to reporting, and establish rapport
- Consulted Communicable Disease nurse from a separate county health department in Oregon to identify barriers to reporting outbreaks

Results

- Sample of adapted Norovirus Toolkit to be printed and distributed to LTCFs in the future
- Norovirus webinar supplied to Lane County Public Health for future education of LTCFs
- Directory of updated trial LTCF contact information
- List of barriers to reporting outbreaks based on feedback from LTCFs and Communicable Disease nurse from separate county

Discussion

- Trial LTCFs chosen based on their history of cooperation and prompt reporting
- Updating LTCF contact information will be challenging due to high number of LTCFs in Lane County
- Lane County Public Health stakeholders have observed a correlation between rapport with LTCFs and prompt reporting of outbreaks

Limitations

- Unable to assess whether education to LTCF administrators during in-person visits was passed on to LTCF staff
- Limited capability for feedback from a pre-recorded webinar
- High turnover rates at LTCFs interferes with proper communication with Lane County Public Health
- Unable to measure changes in prompt reporting by LTCFs

Looking Forward

- Establish standards for norovirus training at LTCFs throughout Lane County
- Offer continuing education units (CEUs) as an incentive for LTCF staff to view webinar
- Distribute adapted norovirus toolkits to all Lane County LTCFs
- Update LTCF contact information bi-annually
- Develop a process for measuring prompt reporting of norovirus outbreaks by LTCFs

References available upon request

Logic Model

- Situation
  - Between April 2018 and April 2019, 71% of norovirus outbreaks occurred in Oregon LTCFs resulting in poor health outcomes for this medically vulnerable population (Oregon Health Authority, 2019)
  - Norovirus outbreaks cause substantial financial burdens to LTCFs related to healthcare costs, loss of productivity, and resource allocation (National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Division of Viral Diseases, 2019)

- Inputs
  - Oregon Health Authority norovirus outbreak data
  - LTCF Norovirus Toolkit from Oregon Health Authority
  - Collaboration from stakeholders regarding needs of the population and expertise about norovirus outbreak protocol
  - Cooperation from LTCFs in Lane County

- Outputs
  - Educational webinar about norovirus in LTCFs
  - Norovirus Toolkit adapted specifically for Lane County Public Health
  - LTCF visits to educate administrators on norovirus outbreak response
  - Contact information of trial LTCFs

- Short-Term Outcomes
  - Increased knowledge among LTCF staff of norovirus resources and response
  - Improved communication between LTCFs and Lane County Public Health

- Long-Term Outcomes
  - Prompt reporting of norovirus outbreaks by LTCFs to Lane County Public Health
  - Decreased number of norovirus outbreaks in LTCFs in Lane County