

TAIRA TIMES

2012
NOVEMBER

Hi. 2012 is winding down, and we will soon be heading into 2013. As summer ends we will be seeing more Norovirus outbreaks. This month, I'm sending out more information about Norovirus.



Germany

Strawberries Likely Cause Behind German Mass Food Poisoning

<http://frenchtribune.com/teneur/1213787-strawberries-likely-cause-behind-german-mass-food-poisoning>

More than 11,000 German schoolchildren fell ill due to a Norovirus outbreak. However, the cause has not been confirmed. It is likely that strawberries were the probable cause of the food poisoning outbreak, which led children to suffer from diarrhea and vomiting.

The news was given by the Robert Koch Institute, which has told German authorities that they have found a link between the occurrence of the outbreak and a frozen batch of strawberries.

Holger Eichele, spokesman for the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, was delighted to report that they have been able to solve one of the biggest hurdles in the case. "We have made a big step forward in the investigation", he further asserted.



Though a majority of the patients have witnessed minor symptoms of food poisoning, like vomiting, still there are 32 people, who have suffering from serious consequences of the food poisoning and are being hospitalized.

The caterer, who supplied the food to schools and kindergardens, has announced that they will be paying the compensations to parents. Further investigations in this matter are continuing and it is expected that authorities will soon be able to identify the cause and reason for this food poisoning outbreak.

【French Tribune Website 2012/10/6】



Hong Kong

Healthy Family: Be Wary of Norovirus

The new semester has begun, and many parents and teachers paying closer attention to norovirus. The Centre for Health Protection indicated that viral gastroenteritis caused by norovirus is on the rise. Although winter is a high-incidence season, viral gastroenteritis broke out in some schools and kindergartens over this last summer. Parents should educate their children to stay healthy and recognize norovirus infection routes.

Viral gastroenteritis outbreak



The Centre for Health Protection indicated that 122 reports from schools concerning acute gastroenteritis were filed up to Aug 19th, 2012. This is the highest number of reports since 2007. 65 cases were confirmed to be norovirus, mainly a strain known as GII.e.

Professor Li Minzhan of Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Pediatrics said that formerly the main strain was GIV with a high-incidence period from November to January, and the GII.e strain was more active in July and August. It might be a new virus. He explains, "It is a kind of gastroenteritis. The patient will vomit, have a fever, grow tired and experience diarrhea. Vomiting is the most obvious symptom. Normally it will happen between 24 to 48 hours after infection."

There are a variety of gastroenteritis causing viruses, but they can only be identified through assay of a patient's vomitus or excreta. However, Li Minzhan indicated that whatever the type of virus, treatment is same. Pediatricians focus on whether a child is dehydrated or not when they are still vomiting. It is necessary to control the symptoms and observe any complications. Li Minzhan also said that people of all ages can be infected by norovirus, but children do not know the importance of replenishing water after vomiting or that serious vomiting will result in the inability to drink or eat.

Infected students should be quarantined and rest at home

Guan Shan, the President of The Hong Kong Institute of Education HSBC Early Childhood Learning Centre said, "No matter gastroenteritis or some other disease, if there are 3 or more students who feel unwell in one classroom, it will be reported to the Centre for Health Protection and quarantine the whole class. "The students will keep on studying in quarantine instead of in the classroom, while the classroom is disinfected. They also forbid these students go to public areas such as the library. There are special toilets for these students as well.

Guan Shan indicated that after the SARS outbreak, students' temperatures are taken daily. If they find who has a high temperature or had already fevered, they will advise their parents to bring their child to the hospital and take a rest at home.



In addition, they disinfect the toilet everyday and educate students washing hand, keeping personal hygiene. Base on these measures, although there are 2 students infected the norovirus, do not outbreak in the school.

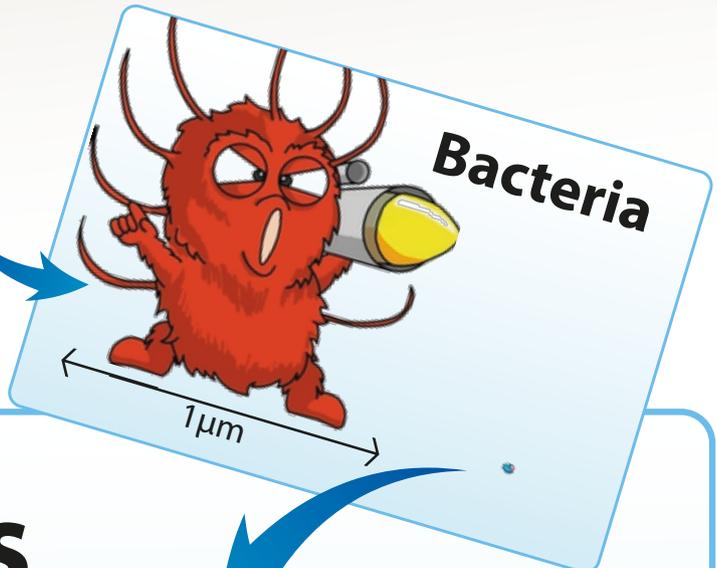
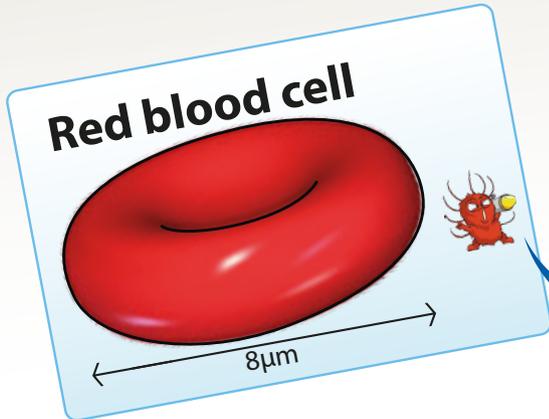
【MingPao Sep 5th 2012】





Let's take a look at the characteristics of Norovirus

Comparative sizes of Norovirus



NoroVirus



38nm

- Environment** Human intestines and shellfish. (They don't multiply in food)
- Originating foods** Oysters and other bivalves, cross-contamination from food handlers.
- Characteristics** Only multiplies in human intestines, can cause food poisoning with a small number of viruses, has been known for airborne travel.
- Symptoms** Incubation (24~48 hours) nausea, stomach ache, diarrhea, vomiting (1-3 days)

1 nm = 0.001 µm = 0.000001 mm

Norovirus is much smaller than typical bacteria, making them easy to contaminate hands and travel through the air.





Gross Facts! (From Topics October, 2010)

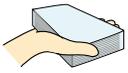
Warning: This experiment isn't for the squeamish, but it will really show how easily Norovirus can spread. The noble and dedicated staff at the Saraya Biochemical Laboratory undertook, what some believe to be, one of the most spectacular experiments in the history of science by calculating the number of sheets of toilet paper fecal matter can pass through while wiping yourself after a bowel movement. Quite surprisingly, the control matter could pass through many sheets of paper. Its essential to keep toilet flush handles and door knobs clean and sanitary to prevent cross contamination. And, always wash your hands.



The Stinky Relationship Between Toilet Paper and Poop ~Contamination on the toilet and how to prevent it~

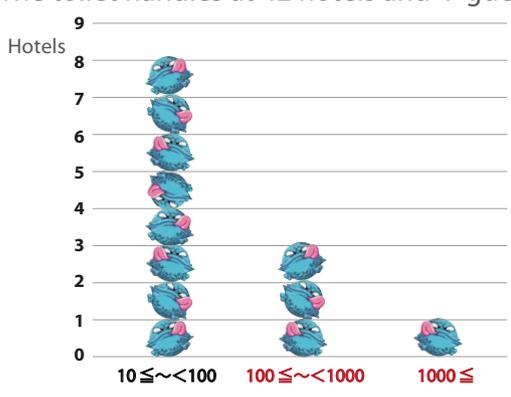
How many sheets will feces pass through?

We tested how many sheets of toilet paper fecal matter could pass through before contaminating the fingertips.

Soft Feces 	6 Sheets  Paper and Finger	8 Sheets  Only paper	10 Sheets  No Contamination
Watery Stool 	12 Sheets  Paper and Finger	16 Sheets  Only paper	18 Sheets  No Contamination

Flush Handle Contamination

The toilet handles at 42 hotels and 7 guest houses were examined for norovirus.



12 Hotels and 2 Guest Houses had positive identification of norovirus on the toilet flush handle.

3 of the 12 hotels had more than 100 norovirus on the handle
—Enough to make you sick.



Research by Saraya Co., Ltd., (No feces was handled in the process)

Anti-Norovirus Measures!

Preventing norovirus contamination is a combination of proper health management, environmental cleanliness, sufficient cooking, and garbage removal. Because hands are commonly the origin of cross contamination, proper hand washing with soap and running water must be maintained in food handling areas. Not only the contamination on your own hands, but also contamination from the work environment and other foods can be reduced with effect hand washing. Norovirus is no laughing matter, and alcohol won't do the trick with this virus, so wash your hands after using the washroom and always be mindful of cross contamination.





Saraya Hand Soap

This time I want to talk about our suggested soap for hand washing in public toilets. These soaps are great for the public because they leave a light fragrance after washing!

■ Shavonet Foaming Hand Soap

Green Apple

Rich creamy foam straight from the nozzle helps wash away dirt, oil and harmful microorganisms. With a sweet and fresh apple fragrance, hand washing is fun. Works with Saraya dispensers.



■ Hand Washing Dispenser



Who doesn't love washing their hands? Now kids will love it even more with our line of children's hand washing dispensers. Just one push makes a pile of the best hand washing soap in your palm.

**Please contact
the regional sales companies!**

