

Administrator Alert

*Policy updates & rule clarifications
for Community Base Care & Nursing Facilities*

Office of Licensing and Regulatory Oversight

July 23, 2013



OREGON NOROVIRUS WATCH, JULY 5, 2013. The third edition of *Oregon Norovirus Watch* reproduces the data and discussion from the June edition and, of course, updates the norovirus outbreak epidemic curve. This month *Oregon Norovirus Watch* will be sent to both long term care facility administrators and surveyors with the DHS Office of Licensing and Regulatory Oversight (OLRO).

Last month's edition was overshadowed by OHA releasing the names of long term care facilities that reported outbreaks from 2002—2013. If you missed it, please see <http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/Outbreaks/Pages/Long-Term-Care-Facilities.aspx>.

Norovirus data and discussion. With facility data provided by OLRO and using the number of beds as a proxy for the number of residents, we found that 40% of long term care facility residents live in assisted living facilities, 26% live in residential care facilities, and 37% live in nursing facilities (Figure 1). More than 900 norovirus outbreaks have been investigated since the year 2000; 39% occurred in assisted living facilities, 22% in residential care facilities and 37% in nursing facilities (Figure 1). From October 13, 2011 through May 20, 2013, 7% of long term care facility residents had confirmed norovirus infection or norovirus-like illness—that's 3,372 residents in 19.5 months—a very high incidence rate (Table 1). For comparison, consider that in 2011 campylobacteriosis was reported among just .027% of Oregonians (27 per 100,000).

Caveat lector (let the reader beware!): the incidence rate of 7 per 100 residents is too low. Case counts are incomplete and occupancy is less than 100% of the beds (used as a proxy for the number of residents). Because of these data limitations, the norovirus incidence rate in long term care facilities is likely to be much higher than 7%.

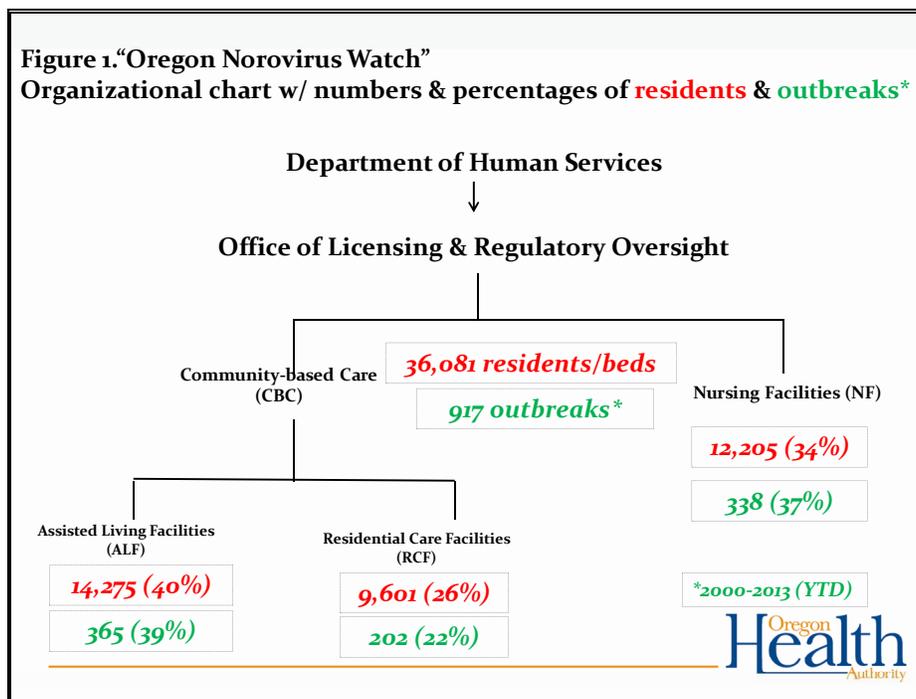


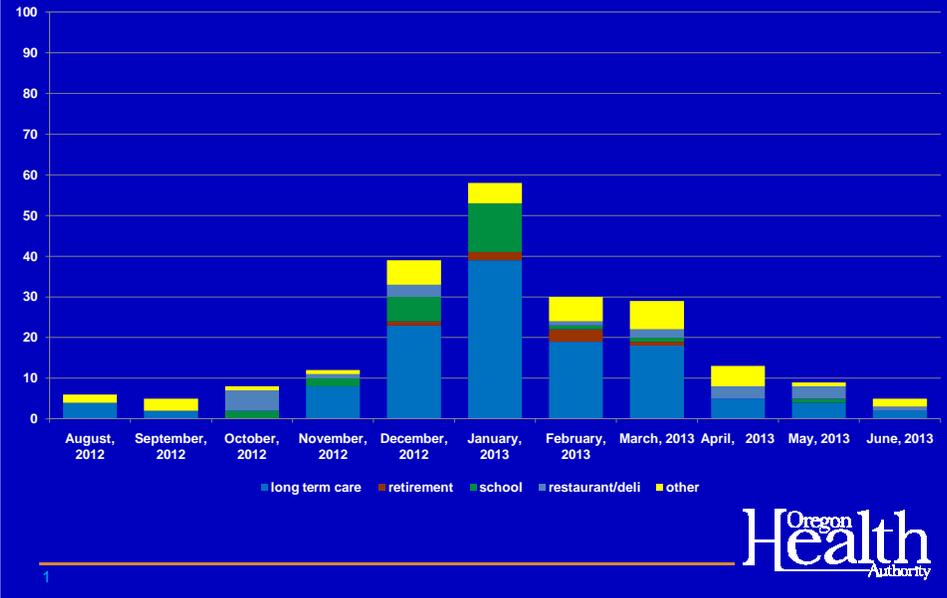
Table 1. Lab-confirmed and presumptive (epi-linked) norovirus cases and incidence rates per 100 residents (using beds as a proxy for residents), October 13, 2011 thru May 20, 2013

| | Residents/beds | | Staff | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|-------------|
| | Cases | Rate | Cases | Total cases |
| <u>Assisted Living Facilities</u> | 1831 | 7% | 593 | 2227 |
| <u>Residential Care Facilities</u> | 1268 | 5% | 682 | 1174 |
| <u>Nursing Facilities</u> | 870 | 6% | 304 | 1950 |
| <u>Total</u> | 3772 | 7% | 1579 | 5351 |

In other norovirus news, only six norovirus outbreaks were reported in June, way down from the record high of 58 in January, 2013.



Fig 2. Lab-confirmed norovirus & norovirus-like outbreaks by setting, Oregon, 08-01-2012 thru 06-30-2013



Please send any comments or data requests to Lore Elizabeth Lee, MPH (lore.e.lee@state.or.us) or call 971-673-1111.

Oregon Norovirus Watch monthly reports are also found on our calicivirus web site at: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/Pages/disease.aspx?did=110>.