OREGON NOROVIRUS WATCH, JANUARY 2016. This issue of Oregon Norovirus Watch includes norovirus outbreak data from the 2015–2016 norovirus season. In the Month of January 2016, 23 norovirus or norovirus-like outbreaks were reported, of which 16 (70%) were in nursing homes, 1 (4%) were in schools and 2 (9%) in a restaurant. Since Jan 2015, 98 (57%) of 172 lab-confirmed and norovirus-like outbreaks occurred in nursing homes or assisted-living facilities (Fig. 1). Over the last year, GII.4 Sydney was identified in 42 (52%) of 81 lab-confirmed outbreaks. A new strain of norovirus has been identified called GII.17 Kawasaki. (Fig. 2). This could potentially lead to a strain replacement and more outbreaks.

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