

## Disease outbreaks

Oregon state and local health departments investigated a record number (231) of communicable disease outbreaks in 2007. The majority (120) of these were person-to-person transmissions of norovirus causing gastroenteritis in the elder inhabitants of Oregon's assisted and long-term care facilities, or younger populations in restricted environments such as the state hospital or prison. However, there were a number of outbreaks of other bacterial and viral pathogens. Sharing of respiratory secretions caused clusters of influenza (3), pertussis (4), meningococcal disease (2) and adenovirus (2). Thirty-nine outbreaks of foodborne transmission were identified. Foods contaminated with a garden variety of *Salmonella* made folks ill at a variety of venues including restaurants, markets and fairs. Every outbreak reinforces the age-old public health mantras — “wash your hands” and “cover your cough.”

### Disease outbreaks by etiology: 2007

120	Norwalk-like viruses
10	<i>Salmonella</i>
5	sapovirus
5	varicella
4	pertussis
3	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>
3	<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7
3	influenza
2	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
2	meningococcal disease
2	adenovirus
1	<i>Shigella</i>
1	hepatitis C
1	<i>Cryptosporidium</i>
1	measles
1	rotavirus