



Reporting Criteria for Infectious Gastroenteritis

(1) Definition

Infectious disease caused by bacterial or viral infections, whose primary clinical manifestations are vomiting and diarrhea; most frequently, the causative agents are rotavirus and norovirus, whose epidemic season is from autumn to winter. Less frequently, enteroviruses, adenoviruses and bacteria also cause infectious gastroenteritis.

(2) Clinical manifestations

Majority of patients are infants, and disease progression tends to be rapid among children <1 year of age. Chief clinical manifestations consist of vomiting and diarrhea, which may be accompanied by dehydration, electrolyte loss, and other general signs and symptoms. Vomiting and diarrhea may occur simultaneously or diarrhea may occur after vomiting, and severity may vary among patients. Some patients may develop fever of 37-38°C. Among older children, manifestations may be limited to nausea and/or abdominal pain.

(3) Reporting criteria

a) Patients (confirmed cases)

In compliance with Article 14 paragraph 2 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician at a designated sentinel medical institution suspects infectious gastroenteritis in a patient with clinical characteristics as described in (2), and, makes a diagnosis of infectious gastroenteritis based on the criteria as described in (4), the administrator of the designated sentinel medical institution must notify such a case on a weekly basis on the Monday following the week of the diagnosis.

b) Deceased

In compliance with Article 14 paragraph 2 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician at a designated sentinel medical institution suspects infectious gastroenteritis in a deceased patient with clinical characteristics as described in (2), and, makes a diagnosis that the death was due to infectious gastroenteritis based on the criteria as described in (4), the administrator of the designated sentinel medical institution must notify such a case on a weekly basis on the Monday following the week of the diagnosis.

(4) Requirement for reporting; items (a) and (b) both need to be fulfilled

- a) Sudden onset of abdominal pain (may not be apparent among newborns and young infants), vomiting and diarrhea
- b) Exclusion of other reportable diseases