



Norovirus Quiz

What statements are true regarding Norovirus (select all that apply)

- a) Norovirus is a highly infectious virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea.
- b) The most common symptoms of norovirus are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach pain.
- c) Norovirus is the leading cause of foodborne illness in the United States.
- d) The most common symptoms of norovirus are red eyes, headache, and fever.

Handwashing and proper food preparation especially with shellfish is important in preventing Norovirus outbreaks.

- a) True
- b) False

Norovirus is transmitted by contact.

- a) True
- b) False

Answer key:

1.) a, b, c

Rationale:

Norovirus is a highly infectious virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea.

True. Norovirus is extremely contagious and is a leading cause of acute gastroenteritis, characterized primarily by vomiting and diarrhea.

The most common symptoms of norovirus are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach pain.

True. Symptoms of norovirus infection. Fever, headache, and body aches may occur but are less common.

Norovirus is the leading cause of foodborne illness in the United States.

True. The CDC identifies norovirus as the most common cause of foodborne illness and foodborne outbreaks nationwide.

The most common symptoms of norovirus are red eyes, headache, and fever.

False. Red eyes are not a typical symptom of norovirus. While headache and fever can occur, the primary and most common symptoms are gastrointestinal.

2.) True

Rationale:

Handwashing with soap and water is one of the most effective ways to prevent norovirus transmission, as alcohol-based hand sanitizers are less effective against the virus. Proper food handling and thorough cooking—particularly of shellfish such as oysters—is critical because shellfish can become contaminated from polluted water and is a known source of norovirus outbreaks.

3.) True

Rationale:

Norovirus is primarily transmitted through contact, including:

Direct person-to-person contact

Contact with contaminated surfaces or objects

Consumption of contaminated food or water

Because norovirus can survive on surfaces for extended periods and requires only a small infectious dose, strict hand hygiene, contact precautions, and environmental cleaning are essential to prevent spread.