

Update to the Investigation of Norovirus Disease Events

Currently all “calicivirus/norovirus” disease events (referred to as just “norovirus” moving forward) are investigated as a routine disease across the Commonwealth.

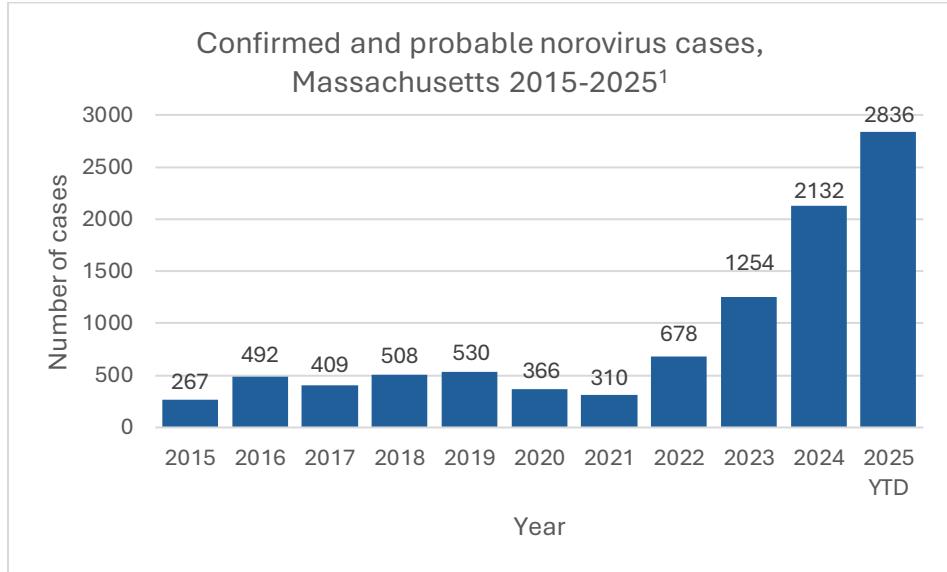
As of December 1, 2025, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) recommends the routine investigation of norovirus disease events for two age groups: children under 12 years old and adults 80 years and over. Individuals in these age groups may experience prolonged courses of illness and are more likely to belong to a semi-closed community such as a child care program, school, assisted living residence, or long term care facility where the implementation of control measures can prevent transmission to others.

DPH no longer recommends the routine investigation of norovirus disease events for individuals aged 12 to 79 years old.

Routine investigation	No investigation needed
✓ Children under 12 years ✓ Adults 80 years and over	✗ Individuals 12 through 79 years

Why change is needed

This update is being made due to an increase in norovirus disease events reported over the past three years.



¹ Data are current as of 12/01/2025 and include year-to-date (YTD) case counts through 12/01/2025. Data are preliminary and subject to change. Find the most up-to-date data here: [Foodborne and waterborne illness data](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/foodborne-and-waterborne-illness-data) | mass.gov

Individuals under 12 years old account for 8-12% of all reported norovirus cases in Massachusetts, and those 80 years or older account for 15-18% of all reported cases.

Implementing this change

In February 2026, [MAVEN workflows](#) will be updated to reflect this change:

- Norovirus disease events for individuals 12 to 79 years old will populate in the “[LBOH Notification But No Follow-Up Required](#)” workflow.
- Norovirus disease events for individuals <12 and 80+ years old will continue to flow into your “LBOH Notification for Routine Disease” workflow.

Until this update to MAVEN workflows has been made, all norovirus disease events will continue to flow into your “LBOH Notification for Routine Disease” workflow. LBOH investigators can close out events for individuals aged 12 through 79 years by completing the Administrative Question Package as follows:

Local Health and Investigation Steps (1 - 5)		
Step 1 - LBOH acknowledged:	LBOH acknowledged date:	
<input type="text" value="Yes"/>	<input type="text" value="12/01/2025"/>	<input type="button" value=""/>
Step 2 - Investigation started:	<input type="button" value=""/>	
Step 3 - LBOH/Agency Investigator:	Assign To Me	
Step 4 - Case Report Form Completed:	Case Report Form complete date:	
<input type="text" value="No"/>	<input type="text" value="12/01/2025"/>	<input type="button" value=""/>
Primary reason:	<input type="button" value=""/>	
<input type="text" value="No investigation needed per MDPH"/>		
Step 5 - LBOH final review:	LBOH final review date:	
<input type="text" value="Yes"/>	<input type="text" value="12/01/2025"/>	<input type="button" value=""/>

What hasn't changed

Norovirus will remain reportable by laboratories to LBOHs and DPH via MAVEN. Norovirus case data will be used by DPH to monitor disease activity and trends over time. Norovirus disease events for individuals aged 12 through 79 years will be reviewed by DPH to identify individuals who may be associated with a supervised care setting (e.g., correctional facility, long term care facility) where additional follow-up may be warranted. A DPH epidemiologist will notify you via email if follow up is recommended for an individual aged 12 through 79 years who is associated with a supervised care setting.

Suspected and confirmed norovirus outbreaks in food establishments and in [non-food settings](#) remain reportable and will continue to be investigated across all age groups.

Foodborne illness (FBI) complaints should continue to be documented in MAVEN for any diagnosed and undiagnosed individuals reporting any of the following exposures during the 7 days prior to symptom onset:

- Eating food prepared outside of a private residence
- Consuming a high-risk food, such as unpasteurized milk, unpasteurized and unaged (<6 months) cheese, unpasteurized juice or cider, or raw shellfish or seafood
- Consuming food at an event or gathering where others are also sick.

If an individual aged 12-79 years who has been diagnosed with norovirus reports their food exposures to state or local public health staff, an FBI complaint should be created so that appropriate environmental follow up can occur. For norovirus, high-risk foods include raw oysters and other raw shellfish.

Additional resources

- [Noro-like Outbreaks in Non-Food Settings Tip Sheet](#)
- [FBI Complaint Tip Sheet](#)