



PUBLIC FACT SHEET

ROTAVIRUS

What is Rotavirus?

Rotavirus is a disease caused by a virus that infects the intestines. It usually affects children between 6 and 24 months of age.

How is Rotavirus spread?

Rotavirus may be spread through the following ways:

- Not washing hands
- Drinking water that has the virus in it
- Contact with droplets (through coughing and/or sneezing) from someone who has the illness
- Sharing things that are put in the mouth

What are possible symptoms?

Symptoms may include:

- Vomiting
- Fever
- Watery diarrhea

How is Rotavirus diagnosed?

Rotavirus is usually diagnosed by laboratory stool test.

What is the treatment for Rotavirus?

There is no specific treatment for Rotavirus. It is important to drink fluids to avoid dehydration caused by vomiting and diarrhea. If vomiting/diarrhea is severe, a child may need to be hospitalized for replacement of fluids.

How can Rotavirus be prevented?

Rotavirus vaccine is available and is a recommended part of the infant vaccination schedule.

For more information on Rotavirus:

Ottawa County Health Department

www.miOttawa.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

www.cdc.gov/rotavirus

Phone: (888) 246-2675