After Action Review

Unknown GI outbreak at a shelter

Date of emergence
22 Nov 2021

Lunch was served by a caterer at 13h15 on November 22nd, 2021

Date of detection
22 Nov 2021

Shelter staff called EMS services when appx 20 individuals started vomiting within an hour after lunch

Date of notification
22 Nov 2021

EMS notified LHD after arriving on scene and identifying 20+ individuals with severe gastrointestinal symptoms

Date of early response completion
27 Nov 2021

- On Nov 22nd, LHD staff went to the shelter due to the number and severity of illness being reported
- Case and contact investigations began for 73 exposed individuals on Nov 22nd
- Food and environmental samples were collected on Nov 22nd for testing
- The unlicensed caterer was replaced with a licensed catering company on Nov 23rd
- The unlicensed caterer received an environmental assessment, cleaning recommendations, and education to prevent foodborne illnesses

Detection

Timeliness	1 day
7-day target met?	Yes

Notification

Timeliness	0 days
1-day target met?	Yes

Response

Timeliness	5 days
7-day target met?	Yes

Early response actions

1	Initiate **investigation** or **deploy investigation/response team**	**11/22/2021**
2	Conduct **epidemiologic analysis** of burden, severity and risk factors, and perform **initial risk assessment**	**11/23/2021**
3	Obtain **laboratory confirmation** of the outbreak etiology	**11/24/2021**
4	Initiate **appropriate case management and IPC measure**s in health facilities	**11/23/2021**
5	Initiate **appropriate public health countermeasures** in affected communities	**11/26/2021**
6	Initiate **appropriate risk communication and community engagement** activities	**11/23/2021**
7	Establish a **coordination mechanism**	**11/22/2021**

Date of early response completion: date on which all applicable early response actions were completed

Detection

Timeliness 1 days

7-day target met? Yes/No

Bottlenecks

- Speed of symptoms onset

Enablers

- Shelter staff quickly reported the illnesses to first responders

Notification

Timeliness 0 days

1-day target met? Yes/No

Bottlenecks

- Outbreak occurred after hours
- Shelter staff didn't notify LHD

Enablers

- Communication between First Responders and LHD
- Health Director is a Physician and was able to assist first responders on scene

Response

Timeliness 5 days

7-day target met? Yes/No

Bottlenecks

- Vomitus and rapid duration of illness
- Storage and transportation of specimens over a holiday weekend
- Staffing availability at lab facilities
- Coordinating investigations with shelter; limited shelter staff
- Survey needed to be created and modified throughout the investigation
- Paper-based investigation materials
- Language barriers during investigation
- Specific LHD educational materials didn’t exist at the time of the outbreak

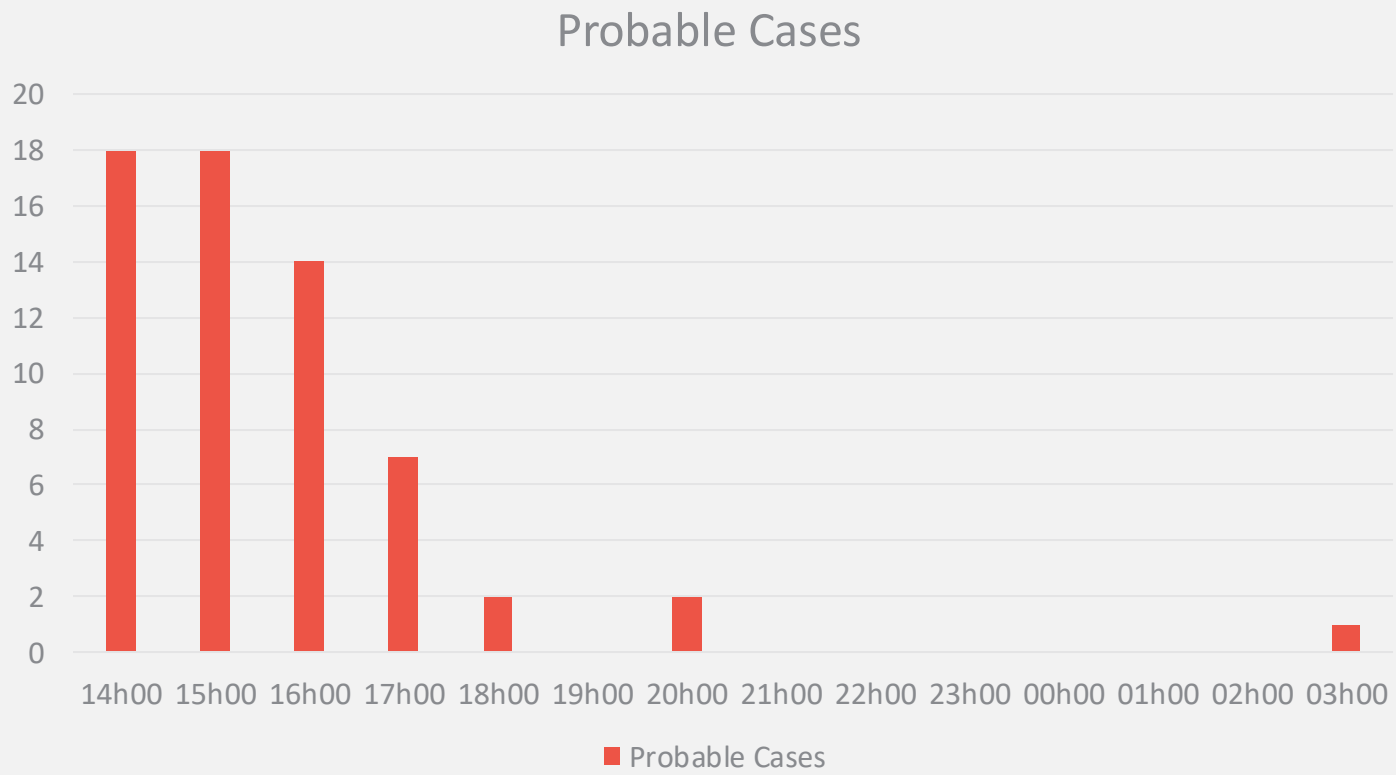
Enablers

- Food was able to be stored for testing
- Shelter director had pre-existing relationship with PCHD to facilitate investigation
- Unlicensed caterer was willing to cooperate
- LHD was able to quickly mobilize a team to respond to outbreak

Event, Location, Duration

Epidemiological information

Period
11/22/21 (Start Date) – 11/23/21 (End Date)



Suspected

Cases	Deaths
0	0

Confirmed

Cases	Deaths
0	0

Probable

Cases	Deaths
62	0

CFR among confirmed cases

%

Immediate actions

Actions for immediate implementation (e.g., where resources are available or anticipated).

	Proposed action	Bottleneck addressed	Responsible authority	Target start date	Target end date
1	Get menu for each meals prior to arrival	Information gathering		**DD MMM YYYY**	**DD MMM YYYY**
2	Digitalized and pre-made survey/questionnaire	Survey needed to be created		**DD MMM YYYY**	**DD MMM YYYY**
3	Public outreach/education on social media/posters	Lack of educational materials		**DD MMM YYYY**	**DD MMM YYYY**
4	Education on who to report guidance			**DD MMM YYYY**	**DD MMM YYYY**

Longer-term actions

Actions for longer-term planning and funding (e.g., through planning and budget cycles)

	Proposed action	Bottleneck addressed	Responsible authority	Opportunities for planning and funding (e.g., incorporate in NAPHS, funding proposals)
1	Cooperate with the police and shelter to ensure proper notification	Notification	LHD/Police/ Shelter	
2	New programs for surveys and surveying protocols (electronic)	Respond	LHD	
3	Ensure better interpreter systems capable of handling multiple interviews	Respond	LHD	
4				