

August 8, 2008

ALMOST 40% OF
NOROVIRUS
OUTBREAKS ARE
LINKED TO FOOD
SERVICE
SETTINGS

NOROVIRUSES
SPREAD LARGELY
THROUGH FOOD
CONTAMINATED
BY VOMIT OR
FECAL MATTER,
OR THROUGH
CLOSE CONTACT
WITH INFECTED
PEOPLE



Chips transmit illness at wedding reception in Rochester, MN

More than 20 people who attended a Rochester wedding reception on August 1 got sick after eating tortilla chips contaminated with norovirus, **possibly from vomit or fecal matter.**

"Initial reports came through from a member of the wedding party itself, indicating ... a number of people being ill," said Kari Etrheim, public information officer for Olmsted County Public Health.

The illness reportedly spread after an infected guest grabbed handfuls of chips at the reception hall.

Anyone who ate chips before the infected guest escaped unscathed. But those who ate them afterward unknowingly risked illness.

"Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands," Etrheim said.



NOROVIRUS WAS THE REAL WEDDING CRASHER AT THIS GATHERING

- SOME NOROVIRUS INFECTIONS OCCUR WITHOUT SYMPTOMS
- VIRAL SHEDDING CAN SOMETIMES OCCUR FOR 3 WEEKS AFTER SYMPTOMS HAVE RESOLVED
- NOROVIRUS CAN PERSIST ON COMMON KITCHEN SURFACES FOR 3-6 WEEKS
- SOME HAND SANITIZERS ARE NOT EFFECTIVE AT REDUCING NOROVIRUS ON HANDS