



CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning

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Janie Miller
Secretary

November 1, 2010

Kevin T. Kavanagh, MD
3396 Woodhaven Dr.
Somerset, KY 42503

Dear Dr. Kavanagh:

In response to your request, dated and received on October 21, 2010, for "aggregate data on healthcare acquired infection and multidrug resistant outbreaks" reported by healthcare facilities, the Kentucky Department for Public Health is able to supply the following information.

During the period from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010, fifty-one total outbreaks were reported in healthcare facilities in Kentucky. Of these, four were reported by hospitals (in two, the cause was confirmed as norovirus; in one, it was confirmed as a multidrug resistant organism, and in one, the causative agent remained unconfirmed). Forty-six outbreaks, all associated with gastrointestinal symptoms, were reported by nursing homes or long-term care facilities (in twenty, the cause was confirmed as norovirus; in one, it was confirmed to be *C. difficile*; and in twenty-five the causative agent remained unconfirmed). Finally, one outbreak was reported in another type of healthcare facility, and the cause of this outbreak was not determined.

Because in most instances outbreaks are the result of a mixture of affected staff and patients, we do not distinguish between those which may be primarily the result of introduction of an organism into a facility and those mainly due to transmission within a facility.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (502)564-3418 ext 3570.

Sincerely,

Craig E. Humbaugh, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning

cc: Dr. William Hacker
Dr. Steve Davis
Dr. Stephanie Mayfield
Dr. Fontaine Sands

Dr. Robert Brawley
Mr. Charles Kendell
Mr. Guy Delius

