

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

## ROTAVIRUS

### What is Rotavirus?

Rotavirus is a viral infection affecting the intestines, also known as gastroenteritis, that is highly contagious.

### What are the signs and symptoms of a Rotavirus infection?

The signs and symptoms of rotavirus may include vomiting, fever, and watery diarrhea. Symptoms generally last 3-8 days. It is sometimes associated with severe dehydration and death in young children. It is the leading cause of diarrhea in infants and young children.

### How are Rotavirus infections spread?

Rotavirus is spread mainly by the fecal-oral route, by contaminated hands touching one's mouth, and by sharing of utensils and toys.

### What is the incubation period of Rotavirus and how long is it contagious?

The incubation period is approximately 2 to 4 days. It is communicable during the acute stage of the disease and for approximately thirty days after symptoms cease. It is often spread within families.

### What should I do if I think I have a Rotavirus infection?

Persons who have these symptoms should see their physicians. Children **cannot** attend school/daycare with active symptoms and will need a written release from their physician before returning.

### How can I prevent myself and others from getting a Rotavirus infection?

Rotavirus can be prevented with vaccine. Preventive measures include frequent hand washing with soap and water, disposal of diapers in the trash, and disinfecting changing tables. Infants should wear overalls to cover diapers to prevent contaminating surfaces.

For more information, please contact the Florida Department of Health in Orange County Epidemiology Program at 407-858-1420. You may also visit the Epidemiology Program website, <http://orange.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/epidemiology/index.html>, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, <http://www.cdc.gov/rotavirus/index.html>, or the OCHD School Health website at <http://orange.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-and-nutrition-services/school-health/index.html> for additional information.