

## Four Clues to Determine the Etiology of a Foodborne Outbreak

- 1. Incubation period**
  - a. Very rapid (hours)—TOXIN
  - b. Approximately a day—VIRAL
  - c. Several days—BACTERIAL
- 2. Duration of illness**
  - a. Short duration—VIRAL or TOXIN
  - b. Long duration—BACTERIAL
- 3. Predominate clinical symptoms**
  - a. Diarrhea—VIRAL or BACTERIAL
  - b. Vomiting—TOXIN
  - c. Severe disease—BACTERIAL
- 4. Population involved in the outbreak**
  - a. Institutions—VIRAL
  - b. Large catered events—TOXIN or VIRAL