Gastroenteritis in Natural Disaster Evacuees Case Study

Following Hurricane Katrina inAugust 2005, relief agencies provided food and shelter to an

estimated 240,000 of the region’s residents in a variety of locations. Approximately 24,000 evacuees were temporarily housed in the Reliant Park Sports and Convention Center in Houston, Texas, which was renamed Reliant City for the time being. A medical clinic was set up to serve the immediate needs of the residents. Over the next several weeks, 1,169 individuals visited the clinic exhibiting symptoms of acute gastroenteritis, specifically diarrhea, vomiting, or both.

* What are the organisms most commonly associated with acute gastroenteritis?
* How did this outbreak likely begin? How did it probably spread?