

Infection Prevention and Control Team

Dear visitor

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There are currently patients on the ward/unit who have diarrhoea and vomiting/nausea symptoms.

The cause of this potential infection is being fully investigated by the Infection Prevention and Control Team, the likely cause is **Norovirus** (known as the winter vomiting bug).

Norovirus is highly infectious and despite our efforts to keep the virus under control it is not always possible to prevent it spreading to other patients, staff and visitors. Therefore the ward/unit has commenced enhanced surveillance – whereby the situation will be monitored on a daily basis and may result in closure of the ward/unit.

Norovirus symptoms usually subside within 24-48 hours and do not cause serious problems to healthy people.

Due to the highly infectious nature of Norovirus, if you have or have had diarrhoea and/or vomiting or have been in contact with somebody who has had these symptoms – **please do not visit**.

When visiting patients on the ward/unit it is essential that you wash your hands with soap and water on entering and before leaving their room. In addition to this we would ask that you do not sit on the patient's bed or bring in food for them.

Ward/Unit closure

It may be necessary to close the ward/unit to visitors to prevent the spread of Norovirus; this decision will be made by the Senior Management Team and Infection Prevention and Control Team. Whilst this is not an action that would be taken lightly and there will be exceptions that will be taken into consideration your cooperation will be much appreciated.

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Thank you for your support in this matter.

Should you have any queries or require advice please ask ward/unit staff for an information leaflet. Alternatively, discuss with ward/unit staff or contact the Infection Prevention & Control Team on [REDACTED]