

Press Release

Issue date: Wednesday 9 January 2008

D&V update

The current outbreak of seasonal diarrhoea and vomiting is still widespread in the community and putting additional pressure on hospitals and health facilities in the area and wider across England.

Despite public health messages some patients and visitors are still coming into the RUH with symptoms and as a result the infection is continuing to affect wards and patients areas. Although some wards have re-opened this week others are still under observation or closed to new admissions. This morning nine inpatient wards were affected but one ward is reopening this afternoon.

In order to try and contain the virus the RUH is particularly reminding the public not to visit patients in the hospital unless absolutely necessary and to telephone the ward in advance. No one should visit the hospital if they have recently been unwell as they may be infectious for 48 hours or more after recovering.

Outpatient clinics are running as normal though some operations are having to be cancelled.

Francesca Thompson, director of nursing at the RUH said: "In order to protect our patients from the infection which is widespread in the community we are taking all possible infection control measures and following the advice from the Health Protection Agency. This includes not admitting new patients to affected areas, ensuring patient areas are kept clean and encouraging everyone to wash their hands thoroughly on entering and leaving wards.

"I would like to pay tribute to all our staff for their hard work in dealing with the extra pressures and also to thank those visitors and relatives who have heeded our request not to visit the hospital.

" We are also grateful for the support of our colleagues across the health community as we all work together to try and prevent people with symptoms from coming into hospitals or local health community facilities. Local GPs have also been supporting the RUH by seeing some patients in the emergency department, including those with symptoms of D&V and preventing unnecessary admissions.

" Unfortunately we are having to cancel some operations. Each case is being discussed with the patients to agree what is in their best interest. We would like to apologise to any patients who have been inconvenienced and to assure them that every effort will be made to get them seen and treated as soon as possible.

Ends

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