

Press Release

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Diarrhoea and vomiting still prevalent in the community

Efforts to control the spread of the diarrhoea and vomiting bug by staff at the RUH have been successful. The hospital currently has only one ward closed.

Two months ago, seven wards were closed to new patients and the public were asked to stay away from the hospital to help limit the spread.

The infection remains prevalent within the community and although visiting is no longer restricted, the hospital's director of nursing says anyone who has shown symptoms of the infection in the past 48 hours should not come to the hospital.

Director of nursing at the RUH, Francesca Thompson says: "The infection control team has worked incredibly hard to curb the spread of infection and to re-open affected wards. We are also grateful to friends and relatives of patients for curtailing their visiting over the previous weeks, which has supported us in our efforts.

"In order to maintain this success, I would urge anyone who has experienced symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting in the past two or three days to please stay away.

"We are asking people with symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting NOT to present themselves at A&E, unless it is an absolute emergency, but to contact their primary care GP or out of hours service for initial advice and direction. This type of virus is highly infectious. Symptoms can include a high temperature, aching limbs and headaches as well as D&V.

"If patients are due to come into the hospital for an operation and have symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting they should phone the ward before they leave home, to agree whether they should still have their operation as planned."

The RUH outpatient clinics are open as usual so people should turn up for their outpatient appointments, unless of course they are ill. If that is the case, they need to contact the department to say they are unable to attend.

Ends

Issued by: Communications office, telephone 01225 825799.