

31 December 2009

Communications Department  
Tel: 01225 82 5849/5799/6230/1299

communication@ruh.nhs.uk  
www.ruh.nhs.uk

## Media Release

### Hospital Visitors are asked to 'Stay Away'.

**People wishing to visit the Royal United Hospital in Bath are being told:  
"Stay away unless your visit is absolutely essential."**

Seasonal diarrhoea and vomiting (D&V) is widespread in the community and putting additional pressure on hospitals in the area and across England.

Despite the many public health messages that are regularly issued at this time of year, visitors still come into hospital often without checking first, which makes it difficult to contain the spread of infection.

Staff at the RUH are trying to control the spread of the infection by asking the public not to visit patients in the hospital unless absolutely necessary and to telephone the ward in advance to discuss their wishes to attend. Wards which are closed due to D&V are displaying notices advising people against going onto the ward.

No-one should visit the hospital if they have recently suffered flu-like symptoms or symptoms of D&V as they may be infectious for 48-hours or more after recovering.

Currently both staff and patients are affected by the virus which is highly infectious and the advice from the hospital is to please stay away. James Rimmer, the hospital's Director of Operations says, "Illnesses such as diarrhoea and vomiting are affecting staff as well as patients. Therefore we need to do all we can to ensure infections such as Norovirus are not spread and we do not put our patients at risk. We would ask that visitors listen to our concerns and help themselves as well as their family and friends who may be patients and please stay away unless they consider their visit to be essential."

The RUH outpatients clinics are open as usual so people should attend for their appointments, unless they are experiencing symptoms of the virus or have done so in the past 48 hours. If that is the case, patients are asked to contact the relevant clinic.

Ends

Issued by the Communications Office: Tel: 01225 82