

# **Clinical information – Norovirus (winter vomiting)**

## **Incubation period/onset time**

Usually 24 to 48 hours.

## **Common clinical features**

Vomiting, diarrhoea, fever.

## **Reservoir**

Gastrointestinal tract of man.

## **Transmission**

Person to person by the faecal oral route; risk of infection from aerosols of projectile vomit. Environmental contamination, especially of toilets; gloves should be used by cleaners. Contaminated food and water, especially bivalve molluscs.

## **Duration**

12 to 60 hours

## **Other relevant features**

You are still infectious for up to 48 hours after first normal stool.

## **Control whilst you or a member of your family has symptoms**

- take extra care with your hygiene and in particular wash hands thoroughly after using the toilet,
- after being soiled with vomit a 2 metre radius of the soiled area must be cleaned, and people removed from the area until cleaned, wash hands thoroughly after completing cleaning
- before eating, feeding others, or preparing food wash hands thoroughly
- after changing dirty nappies and soiled clothing, wash hands thoroughly
- clean the areas most affected by vomit especially toilets and wash hand basins, use antibacterial cleaning agents remember door / toilet handles and taps

## **Exclusion**

Further 48 hours after normal stool and symptom free

Last reviewed: 18 December 2008