

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