

# IPC Bulletin for GP Practice staff

Issue No. 21 – November 2019

To support GP staff, here is some information on good infection prevention and control (IPC) practice.

## Viral gastroenteritis/Norovirus is on the increase Prevent and protect

### Advise symptomatic patients to:

- Wash hands with liquid soap and warm running water:
  - ◇ Following an episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
  - ◇ After using the toilet
  - ◇ Before handling and eating food
- Following an episode of diarrhoea or vomiting, clean and disinfect the affected area with a chlorine-based disinfectant product, e.g. household bleach, Milton
- Not use alcohol handrub as it is not effective at killing the virus
- Stay at home and do not visit hospitals (unless an emergency) or care homes until symptom free for 48 hours



### If a patient vomits or has diarrhoea in the Practice:

Clean and disinfect the area promptly using an appropriate spillage pack. If possible, move waiting patients to another waiting room/area until the spillage has been dealt with

**In a toilet:** The area should be immediately signed 'Out of order'. The toilet, basin and area should be cleaned and disinfected promptly using a chlorine-based or virucidal disinfectant before the area is re-opened

### Remember:

Alcohol handrub is **not** effective at killing Norovirus, therefore after dealing with a patient who has had symptoms of viral gastroenteritis in the last 48 hours, ensure hands are washed with liquid soap and warm running water

### Further advice:

If you require advice for any infection prevention and control issue, please contact your local Community Infection Prevention and Control or Public Health England Team

Visit our website to view the 'Viral gastroenteritis/Norovirus Policy for General Practice'.

[www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk) 01423 557340

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