

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express & Star
Date of article	Friday 14 th March 2014
Reporter	Alex Ross
Headline	Virus at hospital
First paragraph/s of article	<p>Two patients at Dudley’s Russells Hall Hospital, have contracted norovirus, health chiefs said today.</p> <p>No wards have been closed, but people suffering symptoms of the bug are being urged to stay away from the site. Bosses said the two cases had not led to an outbreak. The two patients are from the male surgical ward.</p>
Press enquiry	<p>Alex Ross from the Express and Star asked the Trust the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we confirm if we have had cases of norovirus at Russells Hall Hospital? • Have any wards been closed as a result of this? • What advice would you give to visitors?
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>There has not been an outbreak of norovirus at Russells Hall Hospital. We can, however, confirm that we had two cases of norovirus on 7th March 2014 in Ward B3, our male surgical ward.</p> <p>In line with our policy on infection prevention and control, any other patients admitted who show any symptoms of norovirus (diarrhoea or vomiting) are treated as having the virus and isolated immediately as a precaution. This makes sure the virus does not spread to other wards or patients in the hospital.</p>	

We have not had to close any wards as a result of the virus.

Help us prevent the spread of Norovirus

To help prevent the spread of the winter vomiting bug norovirus, we are asking visitors to Russells Hall Hospital to stay away if they have had diarrhoea or vomiting in the previous 48 hours.

Patients' relatives and friends who have these symptoms, or had symptoms within the previous two days, risk infecting poorly patients while they visit patients in hospital.

Visitors must also thoroughly clean their hands on entering and leaving our wards, and we are reinforcing our usual visitors' policy of no more than two visitors at a time.

By cooperating with us, visitors will be helping to prevent the spread of this bug and protect vulnerable patients.

*** ENDS ***

Notes for editors

For further information please contact Alice Ford, Communications Assistant, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on 01384 456111 extension 1419.