

For the Record – Press Statement

Publication and reporter	Express & Star, Richard Guttridge
Date of article	30.10.17
Headline	Norovirus bug sees ward shut
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	<p>A ward at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley has been closed for more than a week following a norovirus outbreak, it has emerged.</p> <p>Patients have been struck down with the winter vomiting bug, resulting in one of the wards having to be closed since October 19.</p>
Press enquiry	<p>The Express & Star noted that our public Trust Board papers referred to a norovirus outbreak on ward B2.</p> <p>They contacted the Trust for a comment.</p>
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM DIANE WAKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>Ward B2 at Russells Hall Hospital has been closed since 19th October 2017 due to a norovirus outbreak.</p> <p>In the last 24 hours, we have had two new cases confirmed as norovirus with five other patients showing symptoms.</p> <p>The virus was identified quickly and was contained using our usual norovirus procedures. No other areas were affected.</p> <p>The ward has been closed to new admissions and staff working on the ward at the time the virus was identified have been rostered to work in that area only.</p> <p>Our priority is to prevent the spread of the infection and so anyone wishing to see loved ones on the ward are advised to keep visits to a minimum, wherever possible. Staff and visitors are asked to wash their hands entering and leaving the ward.</p> <p>Patients and visitors are asked to remain vigilant by not attending any of our hospital sites if they have experienced diarrhoea or vomiting during the previous 48 hours.</p> <p>We also encourage patients and visitors to follow the same hand hygiene and other infection control procedures followed by our staff whilst visiting hospital.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*** ENDS ***</p>	

Notes for editors

For further information please contact Jackie Dietrich, Communications Manager for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via 01384 244403 or email communications@dgh.nhs.uk