

# News Release

11 April 2011

## Hospital asks visitors to help contain norovirus

The public is being asked to help contain the spread of the vomiting and diarrhoea bug norovirus at Dorset County Hospital by not visiting friends or relatives unless absolutely necessary.

People are also being asked to avoid the hospital if they have had vomiting or diarrhoea themselves in the last 48 hours.

Dorset County Hospital is currently not accepting new admissions to two wards affected by norovirus – Barnes and Day Lewis. Over 20 patients have been affected by the bug, which spreads in the air and is extremely difficult to contain.

Anne Smith, Consultant Nurse for Infection Prevention and Control, said: “The hospital has a good track record for dealing with outbreaks of norovirus but we do need the help and co-operation of visitors to help contain it.

“We would ask people to only visit if essential and not to come in if they have had any symptoms within the previous 48 hours.

“Anyone who is visiting the hospital should thoroughly wash their hands before entering any ward or department, and again on leaving.

“Norovirus is still prevalent out in the community and we need everyone’s help to protect our patients.”

If you would like further advice you can contact the hospital’s Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0800 7838058.

**ENDS**

For more information please contact Communications Manager Susie Palmer on 01305 254683, [susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk) (Mon to Wed) or Stevie Pattison-Dick on 01305 254645, [stevie.pattison-dick@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:stevie.pattison-dick@dchft.nhs.uk) (Thurs and Fri).