



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ82943

Andrew R T Davies MS
Senedd Regional Member for South Wales Central

AndrewRT.Davies@senedd.wales

2 September 2021

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your Written Question asking me to outline Welsh modelling for potential norovirus outbreaks in hospital and care settings during winter 2021-22. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

Due to the nature of norovirus transmission it is not possible to model for potential outbreaks in hospital and care settings during the winter periods.

It is unfortunately very difficult to prevent norovirus occurring in settings such as hospitals and care settings. Public Health Wales issue guidance to both health professionals and the general public on the management of such infections, especially in outbreak situations, and the appropriate measures to put in place to help prevent the spread of infection. This can sometimes involve the closure of hospital wards to allow affected areas to be thoroughly cleaned and so limit the further spread of infection.

Norovirus is a common cause of stomach upset in the UK. It is estimated that between 600,000 and one million people in the UK become infected each year. Winter is the traditional norovirus season and so we would expect to see norovirus circulating.

Careful handwashing is the best way to prevent norovirus. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water and dry afterwards but do not share towels.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The illness is not generally dangerous and most people make a full recovery in one or two days. There is no specific treatment for norovirus but it is important to drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration. People do not need to see their GP or attend hospital if they have norovirus but if symptoms persist they should contact NHS Direct Wales for further advice.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services