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## Clinical Advisory – Increase in Norovirus Activity

To	All staff
From	Clinical Director
Subject	<b>Increase in Norovirus Activity</b>
Date	December 4th 2023

Dear colleagues,

The HSE Health Protection and Surveillance Centre are reporting an increase in Norovirus activity nationally. Norovirus (NoV), also known as the “Winter Vomiting Bug” causes vomiting and diarrhoea, and is usually self-limiting, but can be more serious in vulnerable patients. Over the last month, the number of norovirus notifications in Ireland has tripled to more than 30 per week.

Standard Precautions are effective in breaking the chain of infection – in particular:

- Handwashing and skin care
- PPE – gloves and plastic apron
- Management of spillages of all bodily fluids

A key element of controlling NoV is to ensure that all vomitus is considered potentially infectious and managed appropriately. This applies to all episodes of vomiting in a clinical setting, even those that would appear to have a plausible, non-infectious origin such as vomiting associated with medication/chemotherapy, pregnancy, post-operative, trauma, etc.

**Effective handwashing is the single most effective way of preventing the spread of infection.**

Best wishes,

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**Prof Cathal O'Donnell**  
**Clinical Director**