

Advisory Note 25 Norovirus/Small Round Structured Virus (SRVS)

[Small Round Structured Viruses](#) (SRVS) have been identified as caused of viral gastro-enteritis. The symptoms are similar to food poisoning i.e. predominantly vomiting and diarrhoea. Other symptoms including fever and headache are also common. Sufferers can feel seriously ill for 24 hours but recovery is usually within 2 days

Outbreaks occur in 2 ways: -

- **Person to person spread**
Often associated with institutions such as residential homes, hospital, hotels, schools, nurseries and household where they are relatively close communities
- **Food boure outbreaks**
The virus is introduced either: -
 - a) in the food, e.g. via contaminated shellfish
 - b) secondary contamination – from infected food handlers.

These often involve foods that are eaten raw or are not cooked after handling

Control Measures

Containment

- isolate/segregate patients with symptoms
- Affected nursing or food handlers should be excluded from work until **48** hours after symptoms finish
- Avoid transfer of patients or staff

Hygiene

- Emphasis the importance of hand washing
- Wear disposable gloves and plastic apron for dealing with excreta or vomit

Prevent Recontamination

- Agree thorough cleaning routines for kitchen and toilets
- Ensure toilets have toilet paper, germicidal soap, paper towels or other suitable drying facilities and are well ventilated e.g. open window or working fan
- Educate staff in personal hygiene and safe food handling
- Contact your local EHO for further advice or information

**For further Advice/Information contact
Salford City Council
Environment Directorate, Turnpike House
631 Eccles New Road, Salford M5 2SH
Telephone: 0161 737 0551
Email: environment@salford.gov.uk**