

British Cleaning Council emphasises importance of hygiene after hospital norovirus outbreak

The British Cleaning Council has urged healthcare managers to focus on hygiene after an outbreak of norovirus struck at hospitals across the UK.

Hundreds of beds around the country have been made unavailable as wards were closed and visitor numbers limited, as hospitals isolated patients infected by the virus.

Norovirus, also known as the winter vomiting bug, is extremely contagious and can be lethal to the elderly, very young or very sick patients. The condition causes nausea, vomiting and diarrhea with the symptoms beginning about 12 to 48 hours after infection and usually lasting between 12 and 60 hours.

Mark Woodhead, Chairman of the British Cleaning Council, emphasised the importance of updating cleaning regimes and hand hygiene in combating the spread of infections.

He said: "When the risk of infection is high, it is vital that best practice is followed for hygiene, with rigorous cleaning regimes focusing on touch points and other areas at risk of contamination. In addition to this, if you are due to enter a hospital environment it is recommended that hands are washed regularly and thoroughly, while everyone should avoid visiting friends or relatives until they have fully recovered."