

FACT SHEET

Astrovirus

Common clinical features

Mild self limiting diarrhoea that lasts 2-3 days occasionally associated with fever and vomiting.

Incubation period

1-3 days.

Where is it found?

Human gastrointestinal tract, sewage and contaminated water.

How is it acquired by affected individuals?

Person to person by the faecal oral route. Contaminated surfaces in nurseries may be an environmental source. Shellfish have occasionally been implicated as sources of infection.

How does the laboratory confirm the diagnosis?

There is no test available in routine hospital laboratories but specialist virology laboratories can use a molecular test to detect the virus.

How is it treated?

Symptomatic treatment and rehydration.