

FACT SHEET

Sapovirus

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?

Sapovirus is predominantly an infection in children under 5 years of age and occurs as sporadic cases or outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting in child day care centres and schools. Transmission is by person to person by the faecal oral route or through contact with contaminated surfaces in nurseries.

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.