

# Norovirus Attribution Study

Area of research interest: [Foodborne pathogens](#)

Study duration: 2014-01-01

The five-year Norovirus Attribution Study (NoVAS) launched in 2014 and was funded by the FSA at the cost of £2.5 million, in an effort to improve our understanding of the contribution food makes to the transmission of norovirus in the UK – as opposed to person-to-person – and how that might impact on overall rates of illness related to food.

A team of researchers from across the UK, led by Professor Sarah O'Brien, conducted for the first time a series of retail surveys in oysters, lettuce and raspberries (selected based on existing evidence which identified them as the most significant risk), as well as samples from catering and takeaway preparation areas.

These tests were combined with existing data on outbreaks to feed a new predictive model for the prevalence of foodborne norovirus.

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[View Norovirus Attribution Study \(NoVAS\): Assessing the contribution made by the food chain to the burden of UK-acquired norovirus as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (5.62 MB)

## Appendices

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[View Appendix 1 - Work Package 2 Interim Report - Determining the origins of human norovirus as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (1.03 MB)

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[View Appendix 2 - Prevalence of NoV in the catering environment in outbreak and non-outbreak premises as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (447.21 KB)

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[View Appendix 3 - Protocols for surveys of Norovirus \(NoV\) contamination in oysters and fresh produce as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (2.99 MB)

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[View Appendix 4 - Standard capsid integrity assay for shellfish, leafy greens and berry samples as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (156.77 KB)

EXCEL

[View Appendix 5 - Work package 3 Data File as Excel\(Open in a new window\)](#) (110.66 KB)

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[View Appendix 6 - Utility of massively parallel sequencing for outbreak tracking as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (2.4 MB)

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[View Appendix 7 - Protocols for surveys of Norovirus \(NoV\) contamination in oysters and fresh produce as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (4.12 MB)

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[View Appendix 8 - Work package 4 Data File as Excel\(Open in a new window\)](#) (644.48 KB)

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[View Appendix 9 - NoVAS metagenomic sequencing of fresh produce as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (471.65 KB)

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[View Appendix 10 - Standardised form for catering environment data collection as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (131.21 KB)

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[View Appendix 11 - Breakdown of all premises samples by the SE and NW LAs by premise type and food hygiene rating as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (261.1 KB)

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[View Appendix 12 - A comparison of two methods for detection of norovirus RNA in environmental swab samples as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (489.72 KB)

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[View Appendix 13 - Notes on the need for microsimulation modelling for quantitative risk assessment for Norovirus in foods as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (176.86 KB)