



PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

CAMPYLOBACTER (CAMPY)

Dear Parent:

This is to bring to your attention that a case of Campylobacter (Campy) has been reported for a student in your child's classroom and to provide you with information about this disease. If your child exhibits any of the symptoms described below, it is recommended that you consult your healthcare provider or the Department of Health in Duval County Epidemiology Program at 904-253-1850.

What is Campylobacter (Campy)?

- Campylobacter is a contagious diarrhea caused by a bacteria
- One of the most common causes of diarrhea illness in the United States

What are the symptoms of Campy?

- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain or cramping
- Fever
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Blood or mucus in the stools

How is Campy spread?

- From eating raw or undercooked poultry
- Contact with the feces of infected birds, farm animals, or pets
- Contaminated food or water (i.e. ponds, rivers, lakes, etc.)
- Drinking unpasteurized milk

How can Campy be prevented?

- Cook all poultry products thoroughly until no longer pink and the juices are clear
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after using the toilet, changing diapers, handling animals, handling uncooked meat, and before preparing or eating food
- Supervise hand washing of toddlers and children
- Use separate cutting boards for meats and other foods
- Don't drink unpasteurized milk

Implications for school

- Exclude students or staff who have been diagnosed with the disease
- Must have a healthcare provider's note to return

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

www.cdc.gov

American Academy of Pediatrics:

<https://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/abdominal/Pages/FoodPoisoning-and-Food-Contamination.aspx>