



PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

GIARDIASIS (GIARDIA)

Dear Parent:

This is to bring to your attention that a case of Giardiasis (Giardia) 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 Epidemiology Program at 904-253-1850.

What is Giardia?

- Diarrheal illness caused by a tiny parasite

What are the symptoms of Giardia?

- Watery diarrhea
- Abdominal pain and bloating
- Excess gas

How is Giardia spread?

- Consuming food or water contaminated with the feces of an infected person

How can Giardia be prevented?

- Avoid swallowing water that may be contaminated
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water

Implications for school

- Exclude students or staff
- May return when they are diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of anti-diarrheal medication

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>