



# **PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET**

## **NORWALK VIRUS (NOROVIRUS)**

Dear Parent:

This is to bring to your attention that a case of Norwalk Virus (Norovirus) 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 Norwalk Virus (Norovirus, "Cruise Ship Virus")?**

- A highly contagious viral illness
- Other common names include stomach flu and "food poisoning"

### **What are the symptoms of Noro?**

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Headache
- Stomach pain
- Fever may or may not be present

### **How is Noro prevented?**

- Good thorough, frequent hand washing
- If soap and water are not available alcohol-based hand sanitizers (containing at least 60% alcohol) can be used
- Carefully wash fruits and vegetables
- Clean and disinfect surfaces using a recommended disinfectant
- Wash soiled laundry immediately. Take care when handling the soiled clothes or linens, wash at the maximum available cycle length and machine dry.

### **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](http://www.cdc.gov)

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

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