



**Knowsley Council**

November 2019

Dear Parent / Guardian

**Increase in diarrhoea and vomiting (Norovirus)**

We are seeing a number of cases of diarrhoea and/or vomiting type illnesses in schools across Knowsley.

Norovirus is usually self-limiting and gets better without antibiotics, which are not appropriate for viral illnesses, symptoms usually last between one and three days. This illness can usually be managed by schools, with support from parents, through recommended infection prevention and control measures, and I would request that parents / guardians please follow the advice shown below:-

- It is important to let the school know the nature of the illness when reporting sickness absence for your child. Schools need to keep daily records of the numbers of children off with diarrhoea and/or vomiting, so that any outbreak can be monitored.
- **Children displaying the symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting should always be kept away from school as they may pass on the infection.**
- **Children should always be kept at home for 48 hours after their last episode of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, as they can remain infectious.**
- Norovirus is spread by close contact with someone who is being sick or has diarrhoea. Infected children should be kept away from school staff and other children.
- Thorough hand-washing with liquid soap and water is a vital infection control measure.

Many thanks for your help in this regard.

If you would like further information around norovirus, this can be accessed via the NHS Choices website at: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/Norovirus/Pages/Introduction.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Norovirus/Pages/Introduction.aspx)

Yours sincerely

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