

SAMPLE LETTER TO BE USED IN CONSULTATION WITH PUBLIC HEALTH IF THERE IS AN OUTBREAK OF VIRAL GASTROENTERITIS AFFECTING A SCHOOL

Date _____

Sample

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Re: Viral Gastroenteritis (“Stomach Flu”)

Several students and staff in our school are sick with vomiting and diarrhea. Public Health is working with us at the school to help prevent more illness. At this time, it appears that the cause of the illness is a virus, most likely the *Norovirus* (Norwalk-like virus).

We are asking for your cooperation in following the advice given to us by Public Health.

IMPORTANT

Please encourage your children to wash their hands thoroughly with warm water and soap after using the toilet and prior to eating. Public Health recommends individual towels for family members or single-use paper towels to dry their hands until this outbreak is over.

If your child has ‘stomach flu-like’ symptoms, including upset stomach, vomiting and/or diarrhea, please keep your child home from school. If your child has vomiting and/or diarrhea, it is important that your child **DOES NOT return to school until at least 2 full days (48 hours) AFTER the symptoms have ended AND your child feels better.**

It is also recommended that your child does not attend any group events such as birthday parties, clubs or sports teams, etc. until at least 48 hours after symptoms have ended.

We have attached information about viral gastroenteritis (“stomach flu”) including *Norovirus*.

Please read this information as it should help you to better understand the illness and reduce spread in your home and to others.

Sincerely,

Sample

Principal