

To the Parents, Faculty, and Staff of Mountain Shadows Elementary School:

This letter is to inform you that an outbreak of gastrointestinal illness has occurred in the school your child attends. Our assessment is that this illness is most likely caused by norovirus. Norovirus spreads very easily. You can get norovirus by accidentally getting tiny particles of poop or vomit from an infected person in your mouth. This can happen if you:

- eat food or drink liquids that are contaminated with norovirus,
- touch surfaces or objects contaminated with norovirus then put your fingers in your mouth, or
- have direct contact with someone who is infected with norovirus, such as by caring for them or sharing food or eating utensils with them.

The most common symptoms of norovirus are:

- diarrhea
- vomiting
- nausea
- stomach pain

If your child has any of the symptoms of norovirus, we ask that you do not send him/her to school until 24 hours after symptoms have ended. Even if they just have an upset stomach, please keep them home while they are feeling ill, as it is possible that they may vomit while at school. We also ask that if your child attending this school has siblings in other schools (public junior high school or public high school, charter high school, private daycare, etc.), that you keep those siblings home from school if they are experiencing similar symptoms.

The attached fact sheet includes information about norovirus and how to prevent its spread.