



Public Health England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

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TO: All Schools in Cumbria & Lancashire

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Dear Colleague

NOROVIRUS SEASON

We are writing to highlight that we are beginning to experience the seasonal increase in outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting caused by norovirus ("norovirus season"). In recent years we have seen an increasing number of norovirus outbreaks and these cause considerable difficulties throughout the community. We are therefore writing to ask for your assistance and to remind you of the importance of being vigilant for diarrhoea and vomiting (D&V) episodes/outbreaks.

We need your help with preventing and controlling outbreaks in schools

Early recognition of diarrhoea and/or vomiting outbreaks in schools is vital so that effective control measures can be put in place. Thorough hand washing with liquid soap and water, environmental cleaning and prompt exclusion of affected children or staff, are vital infection control measures during an outbreak of D&V within a school. Children or staff with D&V should not return to school until they have been **symptom free for 48 hours**.

An information leaflet about norovirus is enclosed with this letter. If you have any queries, or need advice during a diarrhoea and/or vomiting outbreak, please do not hesitate to call the Cumbria & Lancashire Health Protection Team on 0344 225 0562 opt 2.

Yours sincerely

Dr Nicola Schinaia
Consultant in Health Protection