

Colville School District 115

A Lifetime of Learning

12/11/2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Colville School District is currently working with the Northeast Tri County Health to facilitate getting information out to the community due to identified cases of Norovirus in Colville. This virus is found in the stool or vomit of infected people. Outbreaks of norovirus within health care facilities, long-term care facilities and other community settings such as schools are frequently reported every year. We are notifying you in an interest of public awareness and safety.

Individuals can become infected with norovirus through:

- Eating or drinking contaminated food or water
- Touching contaminated surfaces or objects
- Direct contact with other individuals who are infected with and showing signs and symptoms consistent with norovirus

Norovirus symptoms begin to show about 1-3 days after exposure to norovirus. **The best way to prevent Norovirus is to wash your hands.** Be sure to wash your hands after using the bathroom and avoid touching your hands to your mouth, nose and eyes.

The Colville School District is taking appropriate precautionary steps to control this outbreak. All district employees are aware of the situation. We are working with staff to increase handwashing with our students. We are asking that for all upcoming holiday parties that families bring only purchased food items to be shared in the classroom. Food items will be served with gloved hands only.

Public health is working closely with our staff to investigate the cause of those infections to prevent new infections. Due to this problem, the facility has strengthened all infection control measures. All staff members have been educated on strict hand washing and disinfecting facilities.

There are ways you can help: Please keep your student home if they have any signs of vomiting or have diarrhea. They will need to stay home for 48 hours after all of their symptoms resolve. If your student gets sick at school, it is very important that we have contact phone numbers for you and that you come to the school to pick up your student right away so they don't expose other students and staff members. Please verify with the school that we have at least two working phone numbers and an emergency contact who can come to pick up your student in case of emergency. Your student cannot ride the bus home if they are experiencing vomiting or diarrhea.

For any questions regarding this notification alert please contact: Becky Droter, RN, Colville School District Nurse 685-2111.

Sincerely,



Pete Lewis, Superintendent