



Noel-Baker Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy



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Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to let you know that over the last week a significant number of children and staff at school have experienced gastro-intestinal symptoms.

We have taken advice from Public Health England who have informed us that this is a mild illness probably caused by a virus, but that it is very infectious.

The most usual symptom is vomiting. Some people may have diarrhea and/or abdominal pain. Symptoms rarely last for more than 24 – 48 hours. The incubation period (time it takes for the illness to develop) for this virus is between 24 and 48 hours.

If your child displays any of the following symptoms they must remain at home and not attend school:

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Stomach Cramps

You should keep your child off school for 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.

If your child is vomiting a lot and has symptoms of either dehydration or unresponsiveness, please seek medical advice immediately.

Preventing the spread of the virus:

This virus is easily spread from person to person. Good hygiene by everyone in the family will reduce the risk.

If someone in your household is experiencing any of the symptoms outlined above you should:

- Maintain good hand washing practices – this means washing hands with soap and warm water after going to the toilet and before preparing or eating food.
- Make sure that you clean up carefully when someone has been sick as vomit is very infectious. It is important to clear up spills of vomit or faeces immediately, by thorough washing of the contaminated environment with detergent and hot water. For hard surfaces, (floor, work tops etc.,) an additional disinfection with a diluted solution of Milton or household bleach (according to manufacturer's instructions) will reduce the contamination. DO NOT MIX these substances with soap and water.
- Be sure that each family member uses separate towels and flannels which are changed and washed frequently.

Please note that hand washing after visiting the toilet, cleaning up spillages and before handling food is the most important element of reducing the risk of infection.

Please also reiterate to your children the importance of regular use of hand sanitizer, the wearing of masks, reducing contact with others and maintaining social distancing.

We are ensuring the school is being thoroughly cleaned to reduce any further risk.

If you need any further advice you can phone Public Health England Tel: 0300 303 8162 or NHS 111 or visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/>

Yours sincerely

Ann Donaghy (Mrs)
Head Teacher