

# News Release

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## **Sacramento County Public Health Investigating Norovirus Outbreak** *Closure and Deep Cleaning Advised at Facility*

Sacramento, Calif. – The [Sacramento County Division of Public Health](#) is investigating a norovirus outbreak among students and faculty at San Juan Unified School District's Harry Dewey Fundamental Elementary School.

Norovirus can cause acute gastroenteritis resulting in stomach cramps, vomiting, diarrhea and complications of dehydration. Because norovirus is very contagious and remains viable on surfaces for some time, Public Health Officer, Dr. Olivia Kasirye has advised that the school close to allow for a deep cleaning. Students and faculty who are without symptoms for 48 hours may return to school on Monday, May 20, 2019.

Public Health Officer Kasirye, said, "Public Health is working closely with school officials to investigate and stop further virus exposure at the school."

Norovirus is the most common cause of acute gastroenteritis in the United States. Common symptoms can last for 1-3 days and include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach cramps and could include fever, headache and body aches. There is no specific medicine to treat people with norovirus illness, and those ill from the virus should drink plenty of liquids to prevent dehydration. Dehydration can lead to serious problems and may require patients to receive intravenous fluids. Those experiencing severe symptoms should contact their health care provider.

To stop the transfer of the virus, frequent handwashing with soap and water is important, as is surface disinfection with chlorine-containing (bleach) solutions. The virus can stay active in your body for 2 weeks or more after you feel better. Therefore, during this time, it is important to continue sanitizing bathroom and kitchen surfaces and washing your hands often.

Learn more about the norovirus on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: [www.cdc.gov/norovirus/about](http://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/about).

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