



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

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## Health Officer Health Alert

### Yolo County Gastrointestinal (GI) Outbreak Update

May 31, 2017

#### PLEASE SHARE WITH SUMMER CAMP STAFF & FAMILIES

Over the past month, over 3600 students, teachers, and school staff have become sick with stomach cramps, vomiting, and/or diarrhea in schools throughout Yolo County. Individuals continue to become ill every day. This outbreak is caused by the Norovirus which is highly contagious. Norovirus commonly spreads through touching surfaces contaminated with the virus, close contact with someone who is infected, or eating contaminated food or drink.

Symptoms may include fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and stomach pain. Symptoms last for 1-3 days. **However, after symptoms go away, people are still highly infectious, especially the first 48 hours.** There is no treatment for Norovirus. The most important steps to prevent the spread of Norovirus is to stay home if you are sick for another 48 hours after symptoms go away, and for everyone to regularly wash their hands.

Specific guidance around preventing the spread of Norovirus in **camp settings** has been provided by the **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**.

- Parents should sign a pre-camp arrival agreement requiring the pick-up of ill campers.
- After vomiting/diarrheal incidents, affected areas should be thoroughly disinfected by trained individuals wearing proper PPE and using disinfectants of sufficient concentrations.
- Ill campers and staff should be isolated and not return to camp or work until at least 48 hours after symptoms have resolved.
- Campers and staff should be instructed on proper handwashing practices; handwashing facilities should be equipped with soap, running water, and disposable towels.
- Food handlers should be trained in food safety and preparation practices and use gloves and utensils when handling food and ice.
- Ill food handlers and campers should be excluded from food service areas until at least 48 hours after symptoms have resolved.
- Campers and staff should not consume or cook with untreated water.

Additionally, camp staff and campers are encouraged to read and observe regulations and warnings posted at swimming pools and water parks.

For more information about Norovirus, please visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/Norovirus/](http://www.cdc.gov/Norovirus/). Information about Norovirus and templates for letters and guidance is also available by visiting the Yolo County Norovirus Website [www.yolocounty.org/Norovirus](http://www.yolocounty.org/Norovirus)

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