



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

*Karen Larsen, LMFT*  
Director

**Jan Babb**  
Branch Director, Community Health

137 N. Cottonwood Street • Woodland, CA 95695  
(530) 666-8645 • [www.yolohealth.org](http://www.yolohealth.org)

## Health Officer Health Alert

### Yolo County Gastrointestinal (GI) Outbreak Update

May 10, 2017

#### PLEASE SHARE WITH STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES/CAREGIVERS

Hundreds of students, teachers, and school staff are sick with stomach cramps, vomiting, and/or diarrhea in schools throughout Yolo County. The number of sick people is increasing every day. The outbreak is most likely 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.

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 clicking on "Communicable Disease Investigation and Control" on the Yolo County website.

The Yolo County Public Health Officer states the following actions be taken to prevent further spread of the infection:

- Students, Teachers, and School Staff should stay home if there is any sign of illness such as stomach pain, fever, nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea.
- Stay home for an additional 48 hours after symptoms are gone. Even though you feel better, you still carry the virus and can infect other people.
- Wash your hands frequently throughout the day with soap and water.
- Clean contaminated surfaces regularly with appropriate disinfectant.
- Do not prepare food and drink for others if you are sick.
- Report to school staff if you have fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or stomach pain.
- Questions related to symptoms and treatment should be directed to your primary care provider or clinic.