[Date Here]

Dear Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s),

This letter is to inform you that a student in your child’s classroom was recently diagnosed with norovirus. Norovirus causes diarrhea, vomiting, nausea and stomach pain. Norovirus is a very contagious virus that spreads very easily and quickly, causing common outbreaks. Outbreaks can happen anytime, but they occur most often from November to April. An individual gets sick 12-72 hours are being infected. The contagious period is usually from onset until 2-3 days after recovery; typically, virus is no longer shed after 10 days.

Norovirus spreads by having direct contact with an infected person, touching contaminated surfaces and then putting your unwashed hands in your mouth, and consuming contaminated food or water. It only takes a very small amount of virus particles to make you sick, and contamination can occur if an infected person touches food with their bare hands that have feces (poop) or vomit particles on them, if food is placed on a counter or surface that has feces or vomit particles on it, if tiny drops of vomit from an infected person spray through the air and land on the food, or if the food is grown or harvested with contaminated water (ex. oysters harvested from contaminated water, or fruit and vegetables irrigated with contaminated water in the field).

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) strongly encourages good hand hygiene to prevent transmission of norovirus.

If your child or anyone in your household currently has symptoms that look like norovirus:

* Contact your regular health care provider to discuss your child's symptoms.
* Contact the school nurse to report your child's norovirus.

**Individuals must have a note from a health care provider stating they are non-communicable in order to return to school.**

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the school nurse at: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) at (312) 746-6015.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Principal] [School Nurse]