[Date Here]

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

This letter is to inform you that there has been an increase in gastroenteritis in your child’s classroom. Gastroenteritis causes diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, and stomach pain and can be caused by a virus, a bacteria, or a parasite. Viral causes of gastroenteritis are the most common; they are very contagious and spread very easily and quickly, causing common outbreaks.

Gastroenteritis often 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. 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, particularly before eating, after toileting and diapering, and throughout the day when children’s hands get dirty, to prevent transmission of gastroenteritis. Individuals who have symptoms of gastroenteritis should not share food or prepare meals for others.

If your child or anyone in your household has been vomiting or having diarrhea:

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

**Individuals’ vomiting and diarrhea must be resolved for 24 hours prior 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]