

HEALTH SERVICES – GASTROENTERITIS (STOMACH BUG)

What is the Gastroenteritis? – Gastroenteritis is sometimes called the stomach bug or stomach flu. It is an inflammation of the stomach and intestines. It is caused by many different viruses including rotaviruses, adenoviruses, and astroviruses. It is not caused by the same virus that causes Influenza.

How is the gastroenteritis spread? – Viral gastroenteritis is contagious. It is spread through close contact with infected persons, contact with contaminated surfaces, or by eating or drinking contaminated foods or drinks.

What are the symptoms? – Symptoms include vomiting, and/or diarrhea, and may or may not have fever, headache, stomach pain, or abdominal cramps.

How can Gastroenteritis be prevented? – You can decrease your chances by frequent and thorough hand washing, prompt disinfection of soiled surfaces and clothing, and avoiding food or water suspected of being contaminated. Your child **MUST** not return to school until they have been symptom free for 24 hours.