

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4
CHESTER • DEEP RIVER • ESSEX

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November 29, 2007

Chester Elementary School

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Chester Elementary School will be closed tomorrow, November 30, 2007.

A large number of students and some staff have reported vomiting, nausea, and diarrhea at Chester Elementary School today, November 29. Norovirus is a common cause of gastrointestinal virus that is common this time of year. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Symptoms generally last for one to two days. People can become infected in the following ways:

- Direct contact with infected people
- Touching contaminated surfaces and objects
- Placing hands in the mouth
- Eating foods or drinking liquids with norovirus

Chester Elementary School will be closed tomorrow to allow students time to recuperate as well as prevent others from contracting the virus. In addition, the school will undergo a thorough cleaning to ensure extra sanitation to the facility. Please see questions and answers on norovirus from the Centers for Disease Control on our website www.region4schools.com

The Health Director for Chester, along the Chester Elementary School Medical Advisor, has been contacted and advised us to take precautions. The school has followed the advice of medical experts and the Connecticut Department of Health and sanitized classrooms including, desks, chairs, doorknobs, and floors. Recommendations for families include keeping children home for twenty-four hours if symptoms become apparent. Use precautions at home such as good hygiene and thorough hand washing, and avoid sharing cups, utensils, and food items.

Deep River Elementary School, Essex Elementary School, John Winthrop Middle School, and Valley Regional High School have reported typical numbers of student absences at this point. We will continue to monitor illnesses at these schools and take the appropriate precautionary action. Chester Elementary School, as well as all of the region's schools, will be thoroughly sanitized.

The health and well-being of our students and staff is of paramount importance to us in the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools.

Sincerely,

Kim M. Caron
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Ruth Levy
Assistant Superintendent of Schools