

THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF NOROVIRUS IF IT IS BROUGHT ON TO A ROBINWOOD CENTRE

In 2017 we had to close a Robinwood centre due to the norovirus bug being brought on centre by children from a visiting school. Even with strict quarantine measures employed and schools with infected children sent home early, the virus can and has spread rapidly to the other children and adults attending and to the Robinwood staff team. Environmental health confirmed that when children bring the virus on centre, unknown to Robinwood and start vomiting near other children, it is extremely difficult and sometimes not possible to contain, even when following all best practice and working very hard.

For the benefit of others present and with full recognition of the impact an outbreak can have, we would like all schools to be aware, that Robinwood take a strong stance on the immediate quarantine and evacuation of children with norovirus symptoms from Robinwood centres.

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN TO ATTEND ROBINWOOD WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM VOMITING AND/OR DIARRHOEA WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 48 HOURS

- In all cases where a child has been sick involving vomiting and/or diarrhoea, within 48 hours of your departure time for a Robinwood trip, do not bring those children with you to Robinwood. Please ensure you make this clear to parents and do all you can to ensure they declare any vomiting and/or diarrhoea to you. We know that children are keen to attend, but please ensure that parents are aware of the consequences of a child with norovirus attending and as result declare any sickness.
- In cases where a child has vomited near to other children on the trip within the 48 hours prior to a Robinwood visit, please contact us. The risk of multiple children carrying the norovirus may mean it is best to look to reschedule your visit. We will be happy to discuss this with you.
- We will offer a full refund to any child who you confirm to Robinwood cannot attend due to vomiting and/or diarrhoea, within 48 hours of your departure time.
- Children visiting Robinwood who experience norovirus symptoms on centre will be immediately quarantined. They will then be looked after on centre until the earliest opportunity for them to return home. When norovirus is brought on centre by a visiting school Robinwood cannot cover the additional cost of that school returning home early.

We would really appreciate your help in communicating this message to parents/carers/children and checking with your party prior to departing, to ensure that you do not bring any children who may be carrying the norovirus to Robinwood. **Thankfully due to measures already taken by the vast majority of schools and by the Robinwood staff team, issues with norovirus are overall very rare at Robinwood. Please assist us by doing all you can to enforce the key points detailed above, to help avoid any future norovirus issue, so all children can have a wonderful time when they visit a Robinwood Centre.**

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact our School Liaison team on 01706 814 554 or by emailing schools@robinwood.co.uk.

Kind Regards

Ross East
School Liaison Manager

