



## District Admin Office

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### **School district taking measures to contain spread of gastroenteritis; no homemade treats allowed for remainder of school year**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 26, 2017

Brookings, Ore. – Brookings-Harbor School District and Curry County health officials have been working together to contain an outbreak of what they believe is a norovirus infection among students, which has caused numerous absences over the past month.

Although it is not confirmed by tests, the symptoms reported by most people who are ill are consistent with a norovirus outbreak, and include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and fever. This type of gastroenteritis, sometimes called “stomach flu,” is highly contagious and most common in winter or spring.

This type of ailment can be spread person-to-person or person-to-object transmission in shared spaces, often through simple food utensils, cups, phones or keyboards.

The outbreak has not required any changes in classes, programs, events or activities.

There are about 20 million cases of norovirus-caused acute gastroenteritis in the United States each year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They are often found in schools, nursing homes, hospitals or other places where many people reside in close quarters. Frequent hand washing with soap and water is a good preventative measure.

Staff at the three Brookings’ schools are working to stop this outbreak. Per direction of the Curry County Public Health Department, the schools can no longer accept homemade food or baked goods for the remainder of the school year.

Purchased and sealed items from a store are acceptable for classroom snacks. Please do not hesitate to contact your school office or child’s teacher if you have questions.

“The health and safety of our students, faculty and staff is our top priority,” said Superintendent Sean Gallagher. “We thank parents for their cooperation in keeping sick kids at home and following the new snack procedures.”

Additional and more detailed information about norovirus infections is available at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at <https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/>.

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Brookings Harbor School District 17-C: “Every Student Can Succeed.”