

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**Celeste Philip, MD, MPH**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

May 26, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

More students than usual at Palm Beach Gardens Elementary School have been ill recently with symptoms of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County has been consulted about this problem and is investigating potential causes.

Hand washing with soap and water is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of illnesses in the home and at school. If your child becomes ill, please have him or her remain at home; students must be symptom free for 48 hours before returning to school.

If your child has become ill with the symptoms mentioned earlier, please consult with your medical provider and have a stool test completed, inclusive of testing for Norovirus.

If your child does not have a medical provider, the Health Department has delivered stool kits to the school nurse with instructions for parents to collect a stool specimen from their ill child, and deliver specimen to the West Palm Beach Health Center, 1150 45th Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33407.

You may also call the Epidemiology Unit at the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County on 561-671-4184 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Parkes, MD, MPH  
Asst. County Health Department Director  
Chief Medical Director and Epidemiologist

RP/co