

# UNION COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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## Press Release

**May 28, 2015** – The Union County Department of Human Services Division of Public Health has received the test results from four samples from individuals that demonstrated symptoms of gastrointestinal illness, the onset of which is traced to May 20<sup>th</sup> at Shiloh Elementary School on Rogers Road in Monroe. The four samples sent to the State Laboratory tested positive for norovirus.

Norovirus is a very contagious virus. An individual can get norovirus from an infected person, contaminated food or water, or by touching contaminated surfaces. The virus causes your stomach or intestines or both to get inflamed (acute gastroenteritis). This leads the individual to have stomach pain, nausea, and diarrhea and vomiting.

Hand washing is key to prevent the spread of norovirus. The public is reminded to wash hands carefully with soap and water:

- Especially after using the toilet and changing diapers, and
- Always before eating, preparing, or handling food.

Persons who become ill with symptoms of gastrointestinal illness are encouraged to contact their medical provider.