



TO: All Nurseries in Cumbria & Lancashire

**Cumbria & Lancashire
Health Protection Unit**

Our Ref: KL/AAH

02 November 2012

1st Floor, York House
Ackhurst Business Park
Foxhole Road
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 1NY

Tel +44 (0)844 225 1295 opt 1, then
opt 2
Fax +44 (0)1257 246451
www.healthprotection.org.uk
www.hpa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

NOROVIRUS SEASON

We are writing to highlight the approaching norovirus season. In recent years we have seen an increasing number of norovirus outbreaks and these cause considerable difficulties throughout the 'healthcare community'. We are therefore writing to ask for your assistance and to remind you of the importance of being vigilant for diarrhoea and vomiting (D&V) episodes/outbreaks.

We need your help with controlling outbreaks in Nurseries

Early recognition of diarrhoea and/or vomiting outbreaks in Nurseries is vital so that effective control measures can be put in place. If you think you have recognised an outbreak of D&V then report it promptly to the Community Infection Prevention & Control Nurse at the Primary Care Trust or to the HPA's local Health Protection Unit, so that support and guidance about infection control will be provided.

Thorough handwashing with liquid soap and water, environmental cleaning and prompt exclusion of affected children or staff, are vital infection control measures during an outbreak of D&V within a Nursery. Children or staff with D&V should be **excluded** from the Nursery until they have been **symptom free for 48 hours**.

An information leaflet about Norovirus is enclosed with this letter. If you have any queries, or need to report a diarrhoea and/or vomiting outbreak, please do not hesitate to call the Cumbria & Lancashire Health Protection Unit on 0844 225 1295 opt 1, followed by opt 2.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Lamden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear first name and a last name.

**Dr Kenneth Lamden
Consultant in Health Protection**